

**NOTICE OF MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA APPROVAL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** *(Three minute time limit)*
 - A. Public Comments Received regarding Beach Policy Review, Bishops Beach and Similar Areas in Homer Page 3
- 4. VISITORS** *(Visitors normally have 10 minutes for their presentation.)*
- 5. RECONSIDERATION**
- 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA** *All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks & Recreation Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Parks & Recreation Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.*
 - A. Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 19, 2015 Page 13
- 5. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORT**
 - A. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen Page 25
- 6. PUBLIC HEARING** *(there are no items scheduled)*
- 7. PENDING BUSINESS**
 - A. Land Allocation Plan 2015 Recommendations on Leasing Certain City Owned Property to Council Page 27
 - B. Parks, Recreation and Trails Symposium - Homer...On the Move!
 - C. Dogs, Birds and Habitat Oh My! Page 29
 1. Recommendations to Protect Birds and Habitat
 - D. Map Depicting the Existing Zones and Proposed Zones Page 31
 1. Recommendations to Define a Pedestrian Only Zone
 2. Recommendations Regarding Motorized and Non-Motorized Traffic Zones
 3. Recommendation to Establish a Limited Permitting System
 4. Recommendation to Designate a New Zone
 - a. Boundaries
 - b. Allowable Activities
 - E. Placement of a Barrier at Bishop's Beach Access
 - A Motion postponed from the February 19, 2015 regular meeting to place a barrier to prohibit vehicles from turning immediately right upon the beach to deter crossing private property and extend said barrier to medium tide line.
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
- 9. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
 - A. Commission Annual Calendar 2015 Page 37
 - B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2015 Page 39
 - C. Needs Assessment Survey Results Page 41
 - D. Safe Kids Fair - Vendor Application Page 77
- 10. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 11. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER** *(If one has been assigned)*
- 12. COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT THERE WILL BE A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015. THE NEXT SPECIAL MEETING AND TENTATIVE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MONDAY MAY 4, 2015 at 5:30pm in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer Alaska**

From: Julie Engebretsen
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 5:49 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: 2015 Beach Policy Option Chart
Attachments: Beach.Policy.Impl.chart.docx

From: Jack Wiles [<mailto:wilesmichaud@msn.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:35 AM
To: Julie Engebretsen
Subject: 2015 Beach Policy Option Chart

Julie & Renee,
Greetings this very blustery March day - a good day to be indoors to think about the beach rather than be on the beach...

Would you please forward this email and attachments to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Thanks

March 16, 2015

Re: 2015 Beach Policy Options

The Honorable Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission,

You have, and rightly so, been developing options focusing on the broad policy questions associated with the Beach Areas delineated by map and described in the 2007 Beach Policy. As you begin to deliberate on a preferred set of options we hope you will consider the implementation of those options and give some considered thought to the four position papers we have previously submitted and the ordinance language contained within those position papers that will help clarify the options.

As you review and develop the policy options for the Beach Areas, we offer a summary chart of desired outcomes for each of the Beach Areas as it relates to the main topics you have chosen; *Vehicles, Dogs, Fire, Enforcement, Habitat*. Each Beach Area has special significance for the priority of habitat protection and accommodation of the beach experience. As you have enunciated well, "Homer beaches do not have to become the mecca for off-road vehicles but instead the mecca for a rewarding beach experience."

A priority concern - that you have now heard often - is the option of closing the east side of Bishop's Beach to vehicles and allowing dogs on leash in that area. This option offers a balanced spectrum of recreation uses for the east and west side of Bishop's Beach and carries out the mandate of the 2007 Beach Policy of a pedestrian preference for the east side. The

implementation of the pedestrian preference policy is best served by the installation of a passive enforcement mechanism of barriers. This east side option recognizes the habitat significance of Beluga Slough, the need to protect the storm berm associated with the slough, and withdrawing vehicles will allow for the emerging secondary berm to develop - further enhancing this valuable habitat and beach experience. The east side area represents about 1,500 feet of beach frontage compared to over eight miles for vehicles to navigate elsewhere (5-miles on the west side of the Spit and 3-miles west of Bishop's Beach to the City boundary - and then even further beyond).

A beach area that has not received a good deal of attention is Beach Area 1. The beach berms, beach and mud flats within Area 1 are significant; to the spring, summer and fall migrant shorebirds, wintering rock sandpipers and waterfowl, and as an important feeding area for the iconic image of Homer - the Lesser Sandhill Crane. A 2008 Kachemak Crane Watch sandhill crane tracking and habitat study showed satellite banded cranes using Beach Area 1, and a follow-up three year monitoring study with local reports from cooperating observers identify this beach zone as an intertidal feeding area-- an important local high protein food resource for cranes.

This beach zone is an important gathering area for cranes and a much needed crane refuge and feeding area - a limited habitat, that if disturbed or lost will effect the population. Limiting summer and fall disturbance to the mud flats that cranes rely on should be considered when protecting the beach resources of Area 1.

To respect private property and protect the fragile beach berms and mudflat, vehicle access to Beach Area 1 should not be via the Airport Access Road. We suggest that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission investigate the desirability and need for access to Beach Area 1; should it be open to vehicles at all or seasonally only, and, if conditions are suitable, should access be directed to Miller's Landing? Eliminating the impact of recreational vehicles to shorebirds, waterfowl, and cranes utilizing Beach Area 1 should be part of your habitat protection goals.

As you further refine the habitat protection goals, we also suggest that you consider a fine-tuning of Beach Area 6 by installing directional barriers and signing the area adjacent to the storm wall to Beluga Slough as closed to recreational vehicles year-round. This management action would help protect the tide pools and slough while providing access for maintenance and service to the storm wall.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and the consideration given to protecting the beaches of Homer.

Signed,

Jack Wiles
Michelle Michaud
Lani Raymond
Nina Faust
Rika Mouw
Louise Ashmun

Carol Harding
George Matz

Attachments: 2015 Beach Policy Summary Chart
2007 Beach Area Map

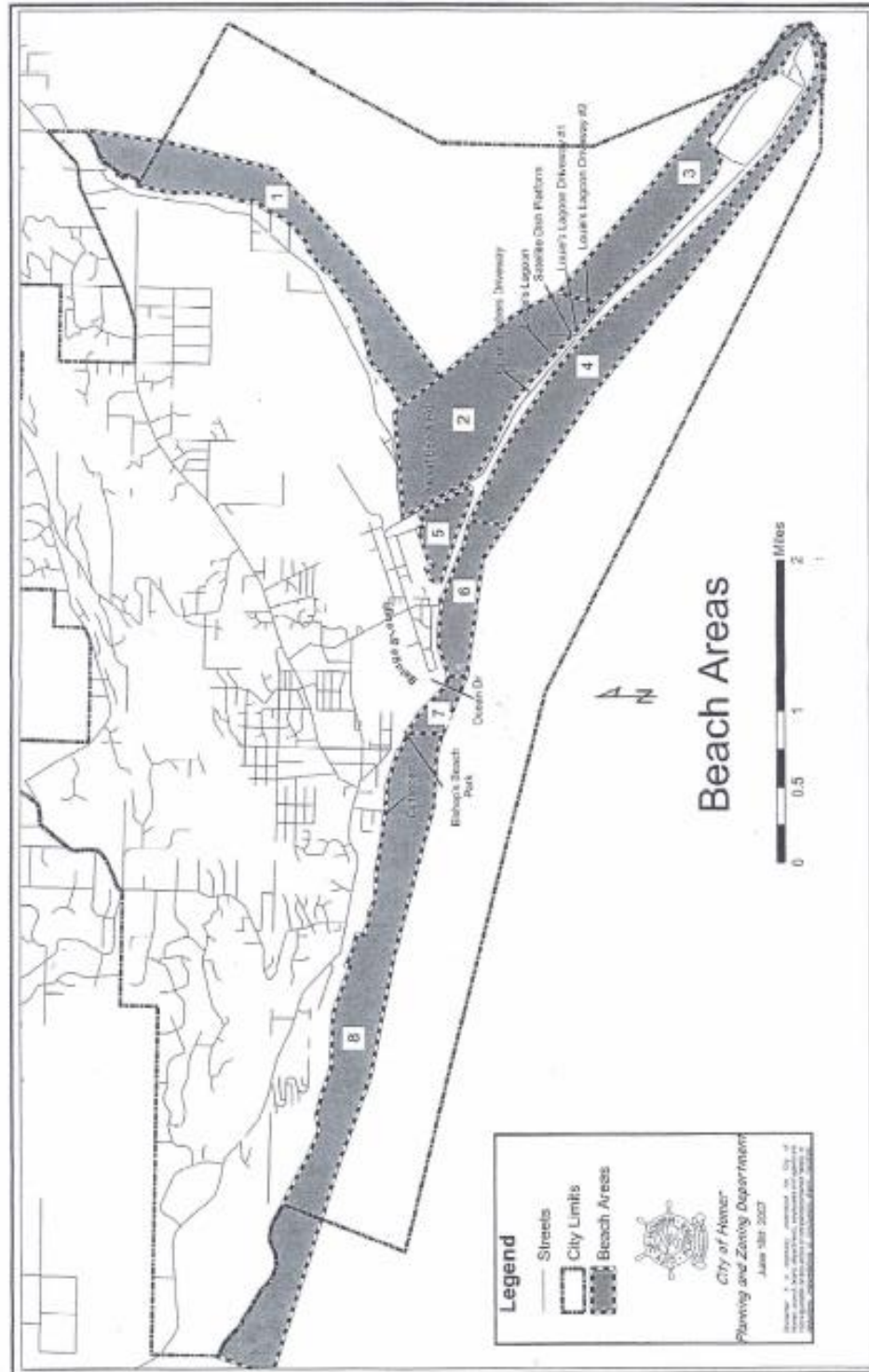
2015 Beach Policy Implementation Summary

Beach Area	Vehicle Use*	Dog Use**	Fire *** : Recreation / Special Event	Enforcement / Outreach	Habitat Management
1	Allowed as a Seasonal Use Oct 1 – Mar 31 Access only from Miller's Lnd.	Allowed Off-Leash under voice control No dogs allowed on the mud flats	Not Allowed No suitable locations Private lands	Barrier Rocks Signage/Law Enf. Access only at Miller's Lnd.	Respect private property, Seasonal vehicle use to protect Sandhill Crane habitat. No veh. or dogs on mud flats
2	Not Allowed Yr-round	Not Allowed Yr.-round in Mud Bay; Allowed on-leash at Louie's Lagoon and Green Timbers	Not Allowed Critical habitat – mud flats	Barrier Rocks Signage Beach Patrol	Critical shorebird spring and fall migration; summer and winter waterfowl / rock sandpiper habitat Significant tidal mud flat
3	Not Allowed Yr-round	Allowed Off-Leash under voice control	Allowed Designated Area(s)	Barrier Rocks Signage Beach Patrol	Difficult access Industrial Uses and Security concerns
4	Allowed as a Seasonal Use Oct 1 – Mar 31	Allowed Off-Leash under voice control	Allowed in Designated Areas for Recreation Warming Fire or Special Activity Permit for Group or Event Mariner Park Camping	Barrier Rocks Beach Patrol Signage Camp Host	Recreation access for water sports Establish beach rules
5	Not Allowed Yr-round	Not Allowed - Yr.-round Significant estuary habitat	Not Allowed	Signage Beach Patrol	Significant habitat and tidal estuary
6	Allowed as a Seasonal Use Oct 1 – Mar 31	Allowed Off-Leash under voice control	Not Allowed Sensitive Beach Berms Mariner Park available	Barrier Rocks Signage Beach Patrol Park Host	Protect tide pools Security of Storm Wall Consider closing area adjacent to storm wall to recreational vehicles
7	Not Allowed Yr-round	Allowed On-Leash – Pet owner responsibility and ordinances	Allowed in Designated Areas for Recreation Warming Fire or Special Activity Permit for Group or Event	Barrier Rocks Signage Beach Patrol Park Host Law Enf.	Establish beach rules Significant habitat – beach berm and slough, Allow pedestrian movement
8	Allowed Yr-round	Allowed Off-Leash under voice control	Allowed in Designated Areas for Recreation Warming Fire or Special Activity Permit for Group or Event	Beach Patrol Signage Rules of the Road	Respect private property Establish beach rules

* Vehicles, where allowed, shall be operated in a prudent and safe manner and shall not be operated or parked on berms, tide pools, lagoons, estuaries, sloughs, streams, mud flats, or cause disturbance to birds or other wildlife.

** Pet owners with dogs enjoying an off-leash or on-leash beach area shall ensure that their dogs are; healthy and vaccinated, responsive and under control, exhibit non-aggressive behavior, and shall have the duty and responsibility as the dog's companion to properly remove dog excrement.

*** The City, through its Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, may designate areas and conditions safe for a beach fire; to protect private property, beach vegetation, driftwood, and implement measures necessary to prevent damage to natural resources, facilities, and regulate actions or activities that may endanger the public safety.



From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 8:07 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Bishop's Beach Coal Collection

From: Patrick Egan [<mailto:patrickegan21@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2015 11:49 AM
To: Jo Johnson
Subject: Bishop's Beach Coal Collection

Please keep the beach open to vehicles September through April.

Thank you,

Patrick Egan

MAR 23 2015

3-18-15

To: Whom it may concern

Please don't ban vehicles from gathering Coal on Bishop's Beach, I burn coal because heating fuel is too expensive & Propane is to much. It not hurting anything, its what made Homer in the early 1900's the railway to coal pt. on the spit go look at Lands end the Pies. on the walls. Coal is a blessing for me and others. It keeps us warm and can be fun & Healthy way to exercise. Its a form of freedom, My Grandfather & father used coal to heat with when it was a territory and me & My son do to. There are way too many changes going on, Please don't change the Coal Gathering.

Thanks
Ken Harrington
and family

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 8:34 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Fwd: Homer Parks and Recreation Commission

From: carolcharat [<mailto:carolcharat@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 8:20 PM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Homer Parks and Recreation Commission

March 23, 2015
Carol Charat
57930 Defibaugh Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Homer

Dear Commission Members:

I'm sending this email to say that I would like to see motorized traffic limited on Bishop Beach so that I and other people can safely walk our dogs on the beach without worry of our dogs getting run over and without the irritation of motorized traffic, and apparently people are driving on the berms, disturbing the habitat. I feel that there needs to be enforcement to prevent this destructiveness. I haven't been to Bishop Beach for a while, partly because of the vehicle traffic, but apparently there is signage saying no vehicles on the part of the beach towards the slough, but there continues to be motorized traffic. This needs to be eliminated.

Thank you for considering my message.

Sincerely,

Carol Charat

From: Steve Tarola <starola@xyz.net>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 1:14 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: public comment March 19th meeting

Steve Tarola P.O. Box 1051, Homer Alaska 907-399-3393

Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Public Comment Cars on Bishops Beach

Should we close Bishops Beach to vehicles? I am a staunch environmentalist and have spent many years defending and supporting wilderness and wildlife. However, in the case of vehicles on Bishop's Beach, we are not talking about wilderness or endangered wildlife. We are talking about a durable rocky beach in the middle of Homer that has been traditionally used by vehicles for almost a century. After that century, the beach is somehow still fully intact. How can that be?

It is the powerful forces of nature that impact Bishops Beach. Wind, tidal wash, storms surges and earthquakes cause dramatic shifts in its shape and character. The outflow creek from Beluga Slough has changed course many times historically and the berm in front has built up and receded, not because of cars driving on it, but due to natural forces. Impact from vehicles is insignificant. After almost a century of being driven on, the beach is still healthy and vibrant and, based on birder's published annual surveys, bird populations continue to thrive.

I can't think of a more perfect place than Bishops Beach for driving on the beach. The east area, mostly owned by US Fish and Wildlife is far away from residences and away from any birds that might be in the sensitive Beluga Slough. It is a place of solitude that is enjoyed from vehicles by elders, teenagers, tourists, surfers, families with small kids and people from all walks of life. It isn't a place just for birders, it is a place for everyone. It is an overreach and unfair to single out people who drive vehicles for exclusion and no one else. Let's keep all of Bishops Beach open to vehicles.

Steve Tarola
Homer, Alaska

Session 15-05 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on March 19, 2015 at 5:35 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, MACCAMPBELL, STEFFY, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, AND ROEDL

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LILLIBRIDGE (EXCUSED)

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER
MIKE ILLG, COMMUNITY RECREATION COORDINATOR
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the agenda.

LOWNEY/MACCAMPBELL - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy invited the public to comment and requested them to please sign in they will have 3 minutes.

Pat Moss, city resident, has dedicated her life to dogs. She has tried to teach the general populace on the proper care of dogs and training and responsibility of pet ownership. She does not take her dogs to Bishop's Beach because it is a crap shoot. She receives several phone calls a year from people, who have had their dogs attacked, and the owner does nothing; she worked for several years at the Homer Vet and she knows that animals get injured or killed at the beach and it happens regularly. This is not a weekly event but it should be noted. Her other "hot button" is people not cleaning up after their animals. She has travelled to dog shows for over 30 years and stayed in hotels and she is appalled at the number of people who do not clean up after their dogs. She is offended when she sees dog poop wherever she goes and there are environmental impacts to consider; it is our responsibility to clean up after our pets, besides it is not pleasant to step in; she advocated for dogs on leash at the beach and more receptacles for waste, it does not bother her to put a poop bag in her coat pocket but it certainly offends most people. She is not sure how they are going to enforce this.

Woody Almon commented on his visiting that beach for past 30-40 years now and asked about the ownership of the area to the left and then asked for clarification on what the Commission was proposing. Chair Steffy obliged him with an explanation. Mr. Almon commented that he sees very little birds nesting there and there are enough restrictions in place and believes the birds have plenty of room to go where they want to right now and don't need anymore.

Jack Wiles, not a city resident, but he is a park advocate, stated that one thing you learn really quick in the park world is that you can't be everything to everybody and you can't manage everything in the same time and same place. Mr. Wiles stated he believes that the commission should stay the course, stay where they are at which is vehicles to the right and pedestrians to the left, it's a good compromise. It works and is a good solution. It protects the resources. It is where we started at and where we need to finish. One thing that his group has spent a lot of time with is options and he advocated for the information that was provided to Julie and the commission should have in their packets. His group has spent a lot of time reviewing options and the commission should have the "handy dandy spiffy chart" they created and believe the commission should just adopt it. It really is a spectrum review and provides a solution to all the beach areas. It is a good approach that balances out the resource and public use and the commission ends up with a good solution and could then spend time on putting some detail to it. At some point in time the commission is going to have to do that. So

with that he will leave them to their deliberations and thanks for the all the consideration and time you have put into this.

Matt James, city resident for almost 20 years and for the last 15 years he has been a surfer, commented that the only time the waves are good enough is in the winter when they get the proper weather systems. He stated that if they can't park near the waves, it would be too long a walk back to the parking lot and a person could be dead before they reached their vehicle. It's no joke. By shutting the beaches down they are not just excluding various groups but shutting them out too. Mr. James said that they are respectful of the beach; don't do brodies and that type of thing.

Chair Steffy requested Mr. James to point on the map where they park; Mr. James said they park where they are not supposed to down by the slough mouth depending on where it is at the time, they take the "road between the berms" and park in the area by the slough mouth.

Commissioner Archibald inquired if they would be amenable to a seasonal closure. Mr. James responded that would work and even offered to pay for an annual permit as this area is the best in town since there are too many other factors in other locations such as shifting sand bars, etc.

Yan Kandror, city resident, over 20 years out east and used coal for heat, he knows that many use coal and go to the beach to collect coal and it would be too difficult to go to another area. He also said in response to a question from Chair Steffy that he collects the coal mostly in the winter and would agree with seasonal closure of the beach.

Chair Steffy requested a recess at 5:51 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 5:56 p.m.

Anita Beddingfield, resident, diagnosed with Parkinson's, she goes to Bishops Beach and it has been a wonderful place for her, she goes almost every day. She studies and reads, meditates, its company; watches families, people with dogs running, there have been many negative comments about the beach but she doesn't see much of that and she is there nearly every day reading or studying her bible. Ms. Beddingfield wanted to advocate for those users that are too crippled to walk from the parking lot to the beach to view, she is not the only one. There are many families that bring their handicapped children to the beach and it would be very difficult if they were not allowed to drive out onto the beach to see the water and things from the parking lot. Ms. Beddingfield mentioned a few names of people she knew that were disabled in some manner and would be denied access to the beach if the commissioners prohibited vehicles on the beach.

Nina Faust, not a city resident but a pretty regular beach user since she has a little dog now and she concurred with Pat Moss' comments, her little dog is not off leash. Ms. Faust stated she is a responsible pet owner and picks up after her dog; she commented on the first committee trying for fairness in use between the vehicles and pedestrians and further commented some people don't want vehicles around when they are walking along the beach even if they are being respectful because it encroaches on their personal enjoyment of the beach. Ms. Faust felt it was very important to honor the intention of the first beach committee where they set aside the easterly portion for pedestrians only. She thought it unfortunate that there was no teeth in it as they thought signage would work. But it hasn't worked and over the last two years, and that area has seen increasingly more use. She goes to that area and observes and believes that if it was not accessible to vehicles it would be different, if the first storm berm was not being driven on, the softer berm would re-vegetate, there are pockets of grass and plants, there are other areas too. You can see evidence in the churned up soil. Ms. Faust urged the commission to close the eastern end to vehicles.

Ted Schmidt, city resident, understands why that this has become such an issue. He noted there was enforcement for a period of time and does not understand why this body does pursue where that funding went and why that 4 wheeler sits on a trailer. He commented that most people walk where the sand is compacted because it makes for easier walking and then vehicular traffic trying to avoid pedestrians and their actions being misperceived when they have to rev their engines a little bit because they had to get out in the softer sand to go around the people walking.

He started a personal poll, he provided three options one was the recommendation from the commission to close the beach from March thru October east all the way to the end of the spit, a middle path to close the beach from Bishop's Beach to Mariner Park seasonally with the exception of people gathering coal or other permitted uses and the last option was leave it the way it was and have

more enforcement. Out of the 25 people the majority chose option C. He asked if they looked into this issue. He has looked into this a little and believes that the enforcement was taken to the Port and Harbor for their parking out on the spit. The Police Department let it go. He noted it is hard to get everything into 3 minutes as the buzzer went off, and continued to comment that they used to setnet out at Louie's Lagoon and that was closed off to traffic and the native corporation is taking their lead so you can't get out on the east side anymore and now you want to close off the west side. There is more of the public that uses it in a discreet and respectful fashion than what is portrayed here and he is a little frustrated that it is a little one sided on the negative of all the people that are out there and that they are using one group against another and he doesn't think it is appropriate. Thank you for your time.

Roy Morris lived in Homer and the Homer area since 1955 and has used the beach since 1956 and will continue to do so; he gathers coal, and you can look right now in the back of his truck since he hasn't had time to unload it yet. He doesn't know whose bright idea all this is but if they check they will find that they do not have the authority to regulate that beach. To the high tide level, to his understanding, is considered navigable waters of the United States and they set the precedence on that and he is in total disagreement of any closure of vehicles on that beach.

Ty Gates, uses the beach for a number of reasons, he is a birder, surfer, and takes his dogs to the beach, and a lot of the surf spots you could get to them walking but once your done surfing getting back to your car is not easy in the winter, the beaches are getting more use this past winter, maybe more education would be appropriate, cars going down there and burning tires, never seen a police car down there, We would like to keep the use of our beaches and he believes it may be the most popular beach in Alaska but he can't see shutting it down. If they shut it down a little bit then they will ask for more and more.

Chair Steffy acknowledged the written public comments received regarding access to the beach. He thanked the public for their attendance and comments.

Clare Ulman, city resident, thanked the commission for allowing her to comment now as she was unable to get off work in time. She heard Dr. Broshes and he had some very good points, but it is not specific to Bishops Beach regarding vaccinations; she is frequent visitor Bishops Beach and takes her dogs there for socialization, her dogs are duck hunters and this is a good place to do water training. She did not support any restrictions on vehicles and advocated for the current uses to continue. She did not see the problems at Bishop's Beach that Dr. Broshes recited. Ms. Ulman advocated for the traditional uses to continue.

VISITORS

A. Marianne Aplin, Manager, Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, US Fish & Wildlife

Mark Weber, Deputy Manager, appeared on behalf of the US Fish & Wildlife; spoke on their position and concerns regarding the vehicular impact to the berms, vegetation, habitat, migratory birds, mammals and enforcement.

Some points made were

- The successful re-vegetation of the first berm and if vehicular traffic stayed off the second or storm berm it would re-vegetate too.
- Concern for the responsibility to the birds that are protected by law and see numerous vehicles tearing up the vegetation, it is not just a driving issue.
- Vehicles cause disruptions to migratory birds
- Sea mammals are protected by Federal regulations
 - there were approximately 120 strandings between Anchor Point and Homer. There were several attacked by dogs however he cannot testify that the animals died because of those attacks. Another reason to protect them is also the communicable diseases that they can transfer to the dogs.
 - Advocated for dogs on leash for the protection of those animals found alive

Mr. Weber stated he has personally witnessed owners having difficulties controlling their pets once they are on to the wild animal.

Questions from the Commission were as follows:

- Understanding of the property lines and the definition of berms with respect to Storm Berm.
- How many strandings (cases) they have at Bishops Beach compared to the other areas
- Enforcement ability of an administrative site?
- Have they considered being changed to refuge lands?

Mr. Weber responded the following:

Animal Strandings are about 120 annually - at Bishops Beach approximately 20, the rest are split between Mariners Park beach, Land's End and various spots along the beach all the way to Anchor Point. Most of the animals are dead, less than 10% are alive. Mr. Weber considers Dr. Hahn's (sp) cabins to the access road as Bishops Beach.

- US Fish and Wildlife has Ownership Title but are not able to enforce any other regulations, city or state, except the migratory and sea mammal regulations, their ownership ends at mean high tide. The major concern ends at that second berm area and have no objection to people collecting coal, surfing etc. All the discussion by the commission so US Fish & Wildlife can support

Chair Steffy pointed out on the map the berms and area in question for the audience. He then asked about the ownership of land and the 64 earthquake. Chair Steffy commented that historical use does not necessarily mean legal use.

Commissioner Brann invited people to go to the beach on Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. and that they can note where the mean high tide mark is as that is the stated ownership line.

B. Dr. Dot Sherwood, Homer Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Sherwood was unable to attend; Dr. Ralph Broshes was present in her place.

Dr. Broshes read from a prepared statement regarding dogs and beaches. He referenced information that can be found on the internet at PetFriendly.com, listing Bishop's Beach as one of three pet friendly beaches in Alaska. It does note dogs on leash are welcome.

He provided information on the following:

- Due to the number of dogs at Bishop's Beach dog feces has become a problem
- Health related issues with regards to spread of disease, effects on the ecosystem and marine habitats by contamination
- Diseases that can be spread between dogs such as parvo, distemper and parasites
- Strong recommendation not to bring puppies to the beach until they have received their vaccinations along with updates for all older animals too.
- Zoonotic issues, spread of illness and disease from animals to humans such as salmonella, coliform bacteria and giardia
 - Children playing in the surf are very susceptible to infection of microscopic parasites in the water.
 - Beaches in the Lower 48 have been closed due to high bacteria count, we do have the colder weather and higher tides that help avoid this problem but not necessarily prevent it.
 - Harvesting shellfish and fish from these areas could present problems
- Dogs can also be infected and infect sea mammals such as otters, live or dead, seals and sea lions
 - Canine distemper is a major problem within Sea Mammals causing a large die off in the North Sea.
 - Seals and mammals that have been rehabilitated must be tested before release
- Recent mauling of sea mammal at Mariner Park Beach
- More education is needed on Sea Mammal Stranding guidelines and the impact of loose dogs on wildlife is vital
- Increase in dog fights on the beach, some resulting in severe or life threatening injuries to the animals and hardships and heartache to the owners.
- Interactions between dogs and people since you are never quite sure if the animal is aggressive or enthusiastic

- Dogs that are not neutered or spayed may present more problems. Females in season will cause a non-altered male to have no common sense at all.
 - Enforcement of the city licensing requirements.
 - Recommendations consisted of establishing specific hours or locations for dogs off leash, provide more baggies for owners to clean up after their animals, more receptacles for waste, penalties for not having your animal licensed and picking up your dog waste; and education efforts on all the above items.
- Chair Steffy inquired how difficult it would be to obtain any statistics on the number of dog fights. Dr. Broshe was unsure of the availability of the information but it could probably be obtained.

C. Homer High School Youth Survey - A Presentation Regarding Bishop's Beach

Bryce Donich, Rylie Donich and Owen Delehanty presented a short video on a survey of 105 Homer High School Students on safety issues and vehicle recommendations currently being considered for Bishop's Beach.

They also asked those students that responded

- How often do you go to Bishop's Beach?
- At what times do you visit Bishop's Beach?
- Do you think trash is a problem at Bishop's Beach?
- Do you think safety is an issue at Bishop's Beach?

They also showed a picture of the beach and the options regarding complete freedom or restrictions on where vehicles were allowed.

- More than half of the respondents would not have restrictions on vehicles
- The next group would have some limitations to vehicles
- The smallest percentage would have no vehicles on the beach.

The next chart showed responses in yes or no responses to safety concerns on the beach

- The majority of respondents stated yes they were concerned about safety but it was directed at drug paraphernalia, glass, and reckless driving issues.

In response to Commissioners queries the students reported finding or seeing the actions previously noted on visits to the beach. They also agreed with seasonal or restricted vehicles usage, recommended prohibiting glass containers on the beach, agreed that fire rings placed in the popular areas would be used and the proposed areas are suitable however education or notice of the availability of the fire rings may help the public. There have been comments from other teens about complaints of inappropriate departures by vehicles from the parking lot later at night but a question regarding complaints from private property owners was not included in the survey.

The commission encouraged the teens to continue speaking with their peers.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for the special meeting of March 2, 2015

Chair Steffy requested any comments, questions or corrections regarding the items on the consent agenda. Hearing none he requested a motion for adoption of the consent agenda.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Steffy had a request from the public to allow comment.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Staff Report re: Recap of the March 2, 2015 Meeting

Ms. Engebretsen reported on the following:

- that she did not have the status update from Public Works Department on Karen Hornaday Park but believed the project is done and should be in the process of closing it out.
- Next meeting they will be making a motion regarding funding for the symposium
- Coffee Table is scheduled for KBBI April 1st the commission should be clear on who is speaking since there cannot be more than 3 commissioners participating including via telephone as that would constitute a quorum and violating the open Meetings Act.
- distributed the email comments and recommendations from Mr. Wiles and apologized to Mr. Wiles that these were not included in the packet.
- A public hearing was tentatively scheduled for the April 2nd Special meeting but that will not be happening since they were to review the policy and a public hearing was scheduled for the April 16th meeting.
- She attended a meeting with information on a potential service area and the good news was that the City would be able to maintain control of its parks and park maintenance and the service area would take on programming and possibly community center. The draft Needs Assessment should be ready for review at the April 16th meeting; tonight is the first night of surveys and are hoping to get 100 respondents

Ms. Engebretsen then reviewed the recommendations made to date:

1. Install 3 fire pits on city owned parcels Bishops Beach Park, near the end of Main Street & Ohlson Lane and at the end of Crittenden
2. Consider 3 options for closing the beach to vehicles
 - a. No vehicles Bishop's Beach to the Slough mouth
 - b. No vehicles between Bishop's Beach and Mariner Park April 1st - September 30th
 - c. No vehicles east of Bishop's Beach to the end of the spit April 1st - September 30th
3. Place a Permanent, Natural materials Barrier to keep vehicles out of the area between Bishop's Beach and the mouth of the slough
4. Add Bishop's Beach and Beluga Slough to the existing Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)
5. Hire two seasonal beach patrol employees
6. Draft and Ordinance to define and ban reckless driving as it would apply to all of City of Homer beaches
7. Improve Signage

The following has been postponed: Place a natural barrier to the right from beach access to deter vehicles traffic from crossing private property and extend to medium tide line

Other recommendations or solutions:

- Increase dog waste education
- Additional Trash receptacles at Crittenden and Main Street/Ohlson locations
- Community outreach and education on beach rules
- Education on beach resources
- Delineate private property in the Bishop's Beach Access area
- Placement of rocks to prevent or mark where vehicles should drive east of Bishop's Beach
- placement of a Park Host, Chief Robl stated that this person would also be required to testify in court on beach enforcement issues.

B. Mike Illg, Community Recreation Report

Mr. Illg was unable to stay past 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Lowney provided the report regarding the upcoming Symposium.

She referred to the form that the group created along with a tentative floor plan and agenda. Commissioner Lowney then provided a synopsis of the various groups that will or could participate in the inaugural Parks, Recreation and Trails Symposium. This year's theme is Homer...On the Move! No invites have been sent out that is what they would like the commissioners to do. Take the form and pass it out to groups that may be interested in participating in this event.

She then read the handout for the benefit of the audience present. Commissioner Lowney encouraged the commissioners to contact their groups or groups that they think would be interested in participating. There is no fee to participate and no deadline to return the form so they will take forms up to the event as far as Commissioner Lowney was aware of, she additionally requested Chair Steffy to act as the moderator for the event. They will determine the funding amounts at the April 2nd special meeting.

C. Angie Otteson, Parks Report

Ms. Otteson was not present and no report was provided to the City Clerk.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items scheduled for this meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Dogs, Birds and Habitat Oh My!

1. Recommendations Regarding Dogs
2. Recommendations to Protect Birds and Habitat

Commissioner Lowney researched pricing on the doggie bag dispensers and provided the information to the commission regarding the price breaks and that these can be refilled so are reusable. She advocated for expending at least \$500 on these baggie dispensers. She further added that the receptacle for disposal is more of a problem than dispensers for bags.

STEFFY/LOWNEY - MOVE TO RECOMMEND THE CITY OF HOMER PURCHASE 500 DOGGIE BAG DISPENSERS.

Discussion was held on the value to the community and funding options. Staff explained that this will be a recommendation to Council so they really did not need to focus on funding options at this time.

VOTE. YES. ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, LOWNEY, ROEDL, BRANN

Motion carried.

Chair Steffy then made the following motion regarding the disposal units:

STEFFY/LOWNEY - MOVE TO RECOMMEND THE CITY PLACE STATIONARY DOG WASTE DISPENSERS AT PUBLIC BUILDINGS, TRAILS AND PARKS AND ENCOURAGES OTHER AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES TO DO THE SAME.

There was a brief discussion on this item and implementation, maintenance and possible related issues. Commissioner Lowney called for the vote.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, LOWNEY, ROEDL

Motion carried.

Commissioner Brann stated he would like to make the following motion:

BRANN/LOWNEY - MOVE TO RECOMMEND THE CITY PARTNER WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND MATERIALS ON RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP.

There was brief discussion on including all kinds of organizations and businesses.

VOTE. YES. ROEDL, BRANN, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, LOWNEY

Motion carried.

Chair Steffy then brought the issue regarding leashed and unleashed areas. Commissioner Brann moved the following:

BRANN/MACCAMPBELL - MOVED THAT THE FOLLOWING AREAS BE DESIGNATED AS LEASHED ONLY: AREA 2, AREA 5, WITHIN MARINER PARK, WITHIN BISHOPS BEACH PARK, AND AREA 7.

Discussion on how to delineate the area in front of Mariner Park, inclusion of parking lots and all parks, protection of wildlife, allowing off leash a certain distance, they are unable to address all situations. Chair Steffy restated the motion and inquired if they were ready to vote on the motion.

Commissioner Archibald requested clarification on what the commission intends in regards to dogs in Mariner Park. Chair Steffy reiterated that dogs would have to be on leash within the picnic areas, camping areas and parking lot. Commissioner MacCampbell opined that they should have a separate recommendation to define what they want within the parks.

Chair Steffy then restated the motion for Commissioner Roedl and called for the vote.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, MACCAMPBELL, STEFFY, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, ROEDL

Motion carried

Commissioner Lowney wanted to establish that all dogs must be on leash within the parks and within 300 feet from all parking lots.

Discussion ensued on 300 feet being too excessive and how would they effectively delineate this requirement visually as the public may perceive distance differently. Not stating a specific distance would bring about all kinds of perceptions of the appropriate distance before unleashing animals. Staff noted that even a distance of 50 feet in some cases you would be on private property. If the commission wanted to require leash only in the parks and parking lots that was one thing but would have to address each individual situation and not sure they wanted to do that.

Commissioner Lowney still advocated for getting animals away from any congestion before being unleashed.

Discussion continued on creating a dog off leash area and it could be seasonal and posted with whatever distance is agreed upon, such as, "Dog off leash area ahead 100 yards" something to that effect and seasonal so when you have nesting and migration in those habitat areas.

Chair Steffy asked if there was additional discussion on leash recommendation.

Further discussion on the existing leash law which is actually voice control, there should be some areas to accommodate those people who do not want to be near dogs, the intent to alleviate the issues within the more congested areas between the beach access and Crittenden access.

Chair Steffy stated that his intent to allow adequate time for the public to comment and since this action may affect the possible new zone he does not want to address the next 6 items on the agenda in 10 minutes.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO EXTEND THE MEETING TO 8:15 P.M. TO SPEND THE NEXT 10 MINUTES DISCUSSING PENDING BUSINESS ITEMS THEN T 8:00 P.M. ALLOW FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no discussion

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Beach Zones

1. Recommendations to Define a Pedestrian Only Zone
2. Recommendations regarding Motorized and Non-Motorized Traffic Zones
3. Recommendation to Establish a Limited Permitting System
4. Recommendation to Designate a New Zone
 - a. Boundaries
 - b. Allowable Activities

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO CHANGE AREA 8 TO AREA 8A BEACH ACCESS TO CRITTENDEN AND 8B WILL BE CRITTENDEN WEST

Discussion on establishing the new zones and then determining what behavior will be allowed in these zones.

VOTE. YES. REODL, BRANN, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, LOWNEY.

Motion carried.

LOWNEY/MACCAMPBELL - MOVED TO POSTPONE DEFINING THE NEW ZONES TO THE NEXT MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Allocation Plan Recommendation 2015

Chair Steffy inquired if there were any questions of recommendations on the Land Allocation Plan.

Commissioner Archibald noted that page 56 is stated up for lease and that is where the new sculpture is going to be placed. A brief discussion on that area will be changing since restrooms are going to be built it is in the planning stage so it will not be leased out.

Commissioner Lowney had several recommendations. Chair Steffy inquired if the commission could address item B under New Business first then since it will take a shorter amount of time to be accomplished. Commissioner Lowney acquiesced.

B. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics

Chair Steffy opened discussion on what the commission has tentatively scheduled for the April 2nd special meeting and if it was permissible to have items from this meeting on that agenda. Staff indicated it was allowed.

Discussion on the items for the next meeting ensued. It was determined that there will be no public hearing, land allocation plan all current pending business and all new business to pending business.

There was no disagreement from the commissioners.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Commission Annual Calendar 2015
- B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2015
- C. Kachemak Bay Water Trail Project Receives 2015 Project Excellence Award
- D. Brochure Samples from Other Communities Re: Dogs
- E. Homer News Article October 27, 2011 Re: Boulder Barrier on Bishop's Beach to Delineate Private Property
- F. True Grit: A New Vision for Healthy Beaches in Nova Scotia
- G. Brochures Distributed by Homer Police Department
- H. Animal Control/Shelter Scope of Work

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Chair Steffy invited the audience to comment on any subject.

Lani Raymond noted on page 35-36 of the packet, under birds, that George Matz wanted seasonal closure of Section 7 or Beach 7 and she believed that is an error. She stated that she believed he was referring to dogs being on leash or off leash. She also commented that she had the documentation to prove his point.

Chair Steffy did note that Mr. Matz referred to the seasonal closure for vehicles in Area 7 and Staff apologized for the ill written memorandum which may have alluded to something different.

Louise Ashmun, urged the commission to make specific recommendations to City Council, the commission is the one the heard the public comment and she would like this commission to stand at some point. Ms. Ashmun continued by stating two people testified that they train their bird dogs in Area 7 and that makes her nervous that they have their dogs in an area that supposed to be protected. She also recommended that they leave some wiggle room for changes in seasonal closures due to Climate Change and while she does not have the expertise she recommended that this be considered when thinking about seasonal closures.

Ginny Espenshade, agreed with the commission making specific motions to council, they are the ones that hear the richness of the testimony. Ms. Espenshade commented on the existing leash law, which is loosely worded, no pun intended, but voice control is as good as how much you can distract your dog as much as what is distracting your dog, she recommended amending the existing leash law to specifically disallows voice control in the parks or designate specific areas where there is an exception to the leash law; another issue that keeps coming up is education and what would be asked of this person is more of a ranger or police officer and suggested sharing staffing at Islands and Ocean and storage of the ATV at their facility since she knows some positions will be getting cut due to the budget issues.

Ted Schmidt, doesn't want to seem opposed to everything the commission comes up with and he would be able to support leash law in parking lots and in campgrounds, he has a big dog and can be an aggressive dog but the bird dog is trained not to take off after just any birds, that is the training he is only trained to go after what I shoot. We work very hard with our animals. They work with them on leash so that they will listen when off leash. There are many dog owners who don't mind there animals. He spoke about redundancy and he does not see vehicles in Mud Bay or dogs in Louie's Lagoon so he doesn't believe that more is needed. Mr. Schmidt believes it takes enforcement with regards to vehicles and dogs in areas that there are already existing laws.

Bill Ostwald commented that some people have good dogs, well trained and all that, but there are many who don't. He has experienced many dogs running up on to his property to go after the pheasants that nest there. He doesn't see where a leash law is uncalled for; there is a lot of private property down there and the owner does not have to post his property and the individual is supposed to know where they are at and there will be issues with the city allowing people access to those private property owners. Mr. Ostwald commented on the lack of enforcement and the recent experience with a reckless driver and multiple calls to the Police who took a long time to show up, he provided the tag

number and he did read later in the paper about they pulled him over because he was reported. The problem is they only get a warning or spoken to and without enforcement it will not stop. If there is no penalty there is no reason to stop. Mr. Ostwald is surprised that someone is going to get seriously hurt and strongly recommended that they put a gate across and unless they need to collect coal keep everybody out of there until they get this figured out.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Engebretsen thanked Ginny Espenshade for working with the High School Students and that the Land Allocation Plan is to put city owned property up for lease and if there are any other questions or concerns feel free to send her an email or come and see her to discuss those concerns.

Ms. Krause commented had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is present)*

There were no council members present.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Roedl had no comments.

Commissioner Brann wanted to thank whoever decided to include the Nova Scotia report it was very informative and strongly recommended everyone read the document. He appreciated all the written and spoken public comments. He further stated that they really need to think about long term not just this summer or next.

Commissioner Archibald thanked the audience and the efforts of staff.

Commissioner MacCampbell thanked staff and the kids for their presentation. One day in the future they will be sitting up here and will be going back and forth. He appreciated the audience bearing with them the whole time.

Commissioner Lowney thanked the audience for their comments and staying through to the end. She reminded the commissioners about the forms for the symposium.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy appreciated the audience taking time to attend these meetings and apologized for the length he encouraged everyone to submit their comments to the clerk. He reminded everyone about the show on KBBi Coffee Table April 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. The next **SPECIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3106

(f) 907-235-3118

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner
Date: March 25, 2015
Subject: April 2nd Staff Report

PARC Needs Assessment Update

The telephone survey went well and has been completed. I hope to have an update at the meeting about the project, and a draft at the April 16th meeting. If you have not seen them, the community survey results are available on the City Website, and included in this packet.

Beach Policy neighborhood invite

I'd like to encourage the Commission to wrap up discussion of the Bishop's beach area/area 8A and 8B, in the next two meetings. I would really like to invite the old town neighborhood and area 8 land owners to come to a commission meeting, before the tourism season is upon us, and well before a public hearing.

RECAP of beach policy motions to date:

- ~CITY OF HOMER PURCHASE 500 DOGGIE BAG DISPENSERS.
- ~THE CITY PLACE STATIONARY DOG WASTE DISPENSERS AT PUBLIC BUILDINGS, TRAILS AND PARKS AND ENCOURAGES OTHER AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES TO DO THE SAME.
- ~THE CITY PARTNER WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND MATERIALS ON RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP.
- ~THE FOLLOWING AREAS BE DESIGNATED AS LEASHED ONLY: AREA 2, AREA 5, WITHIN MARINER PARK, WITHIN BISHOPS BEACH PARK, AND AREA 7.
- ~MOVED TO CHANGE AREA 8 TO AREA 8A BEACH ACCESS TO CRITTENDEN AND 8B WILL BE CRITTENDEN WEST
- ~ **Install fire pits** at these three locations: Bishop's Beach Park, City parcel near the end of Main Street/Ohlson Lane, and at the End of Crittenden.
- ~**Consider 3 options for closing the beach to vehicles:**
 1. No vehicles east from Bishop's Beach to the slough
 2. No vehicles between Bishop's Beach and Mariner Park. (Seasonal, closed in summer)
 3. No vehicles east of Bishop's Beach, all the way to the end of the Spit. (Seasonal)
- ~**Place a permanent natural barrier** to keep vehicles out of area 7 (Bishops beach Park the mouth of the slough) (Feb 19 mtg)
- ~**Add Bishop's Beach** and Beluga Slough to the existing Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. (WHSRN)
- ~Hire two seasonal beach patrol employees

- ~Draft an ordinance to define and ban reckless driving as it would be applies to all of City of Homer beaches
- ~Signage is inadequate and needs to be improved at Bishop's Beach.

Motions on the floor but postponed at Feb 19 meeting: Place a natural barrier to the right from the beach access to deter vehicle traffic from crossing private property and extend to medium tide line.

Other Solutions:

- Increase dog waste education
- Trash cans at Main/Ohlson and Crittenden. (Make it easier to toss trash and doggie baggies)
- Educate locals on beach rules. Community outreach: primary user groups, schools
- Education on beach resources (why we have the rules and how they protect what we have)
- Delineate private property at Bishop's Beach Access
- Place rocks to prevent or mark where vehicles shouldn't go, east at Bishop's Beach
- Consider a park host. Chief Robl recommends they be willing to be a witness to testify in court on beach enforcement actions.



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(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: MARCH 26, 2015
SUBJECT: LAND ALLOCATION PLAN 2015 RECOMMENDATIONS

Please see the memorandum and information from the March 19, 2015 meeting packet.

Please note this is for recommending parcels for lease any additional actions are to be sent to staff separately or postponed until a later meeting agenda for action by the commission.

Recommendation:

Make a Motion to Recommend Council Put up for Lease the Following City Property:



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Office of the City Clerk

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Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

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Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: MARCH 26, 2015
SUBJECT: DOGS, BIRDS, HABITAT: OH MY!

Due to time constraints at the March 19, 2015 regular meeting the commission postponed discussion on the following items on the memorandum provided by staff at that meeting. Please review and take the required action if any.

Birds

Motion already made and adopted: add Bishop's Beach and Beluga Slough to the existing Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network designation.

Motion already made: Close area 7 to vehicles year round, and seasonally close areas 6 and 4 (Beluga Slough, east to Mariner Park and the end of the Spit)

Motions: Anything else bird related?

Habitat

Mark Weber, Deputy Manager, Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, US Fish & Wildlife was a guest speaker on the agenda he provided some information regarding enforcement constraints and the desire to protect both berms.

If the Commission would like to make any motions based on his presentation, now is the time!

Tide pools

There has also been public comment expressing concern for vehicles driving through tide pools. Staff does not have any specific recommendations, nor is it clear how frequently this occurs. Supporting general education about beach ecosystems will probably encourage most people to value the tide pools, and not drive through them.

If the Commission wants to have other ideas considered at the public hearing, now is the time to make those motions.

Any other habitat motions?



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(f) 907-235-3118

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner
Date: March 11, 2015

Subject: Beach Zones

Introduction

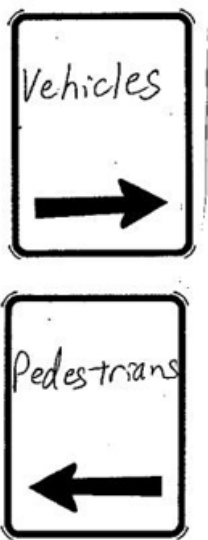
The Commission requested several items on the agenda. They have been categorized here for organization.

Map Depicting the Existing Zones and Proposed Zones

1. Recommendations to Define a Pedestrian Only Zone
2. Recommendations regarding Motorized and Non-Motorized Traffic Zones
3. Recommendation to Establish a Limited Permitting System
4. Recommendation to Designate a New Zone
 - a. Boundaries
 - b. Allowable Activities

1. Request to Define a Pedestrian Only Zone.

Staff recommendation: Drop the term “Pedestrian Priority” from the Beach Policy. If the goal is to close the beach to vehicles, its much more clear to say that.



2. Recommendations regarding Motorized and Non-Motorized Traffic Zones

Currently, the commission has adopted a recommendation to close area 7 to vehicles year round, and to seasonally close the area from Beluga Slough, east through Mariner Park out the Spit. If the Commission wants any other new areas closed to vehicles, please make a motion to do so. Otherwise, this is the proposal that is going to public hearing.

3. Recommendation to Establish a Limited Permitting System

If the Commission wants to have a permit system, please make a motion describing who can get a permit and why. Don't get too bogged down in the details; right now we need to know who gets permission, what area of the beach this applies to, and why permission would be granted.

4. Recommendation to Designate a New Zone

a. Boundaries

b. Allowable Activities

At the last meeting, Chief Robl suggested creating an additional zone directly west of Bishop's Beach Park, that is more restrictive due to the increased usage, but allows kids to go further west. I was not at the last meeting, but I understand there was some conversation on a slower speed limit through this area.

Boundaries:

Suggested Motion: Create a new area from Bishop's Beach Park, west to ____ (Crittenden?)
Staff suggests calling this "Bishop's Beach Area" to keep it simple for now.

Allowable activities:

How will beach behavior be different in this area, than other places where people can drive on the beach?

~the Commission has already recommended designated fire pit areas along this portion of the beach

- ~Parks maintenance will try to find ways to increase the number of trash cans in the area, probably along the roads where trash can be picked up.
- ~ Would building stairs at the end of Main Street or working with the landowner who has the private trail in that area help pedestrian access?
- ~Staff recommends a short brainstorming session on what the Commission envisions in this area.

Attachments

1. Small Beach Area Map
2. Larger beach map of Mariner Park to Crittenden



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR
FOR THE 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>SCHEDULED EVENTS OR AGENDA ITEM</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FEBRUARY 20, 2014	
<input type="checkbox"/> MARCH 19, 2015	LAND ALLOCATION PLAN REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL UPDATE ON PARK & RECREATION SYMPOISUM – WALKABLE HOMER
<input type="checkbox"/> APRIL 16, 2015	SELECT SPRING PARK &/ OR BEACH WALK THROUGH PUBLIC HEARING ON BEACH POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FINAL REPORT ON PARK & RECREATION SYMPOISUM – WALKABLE HOMER
<input type="checkbox"/> MAY 21, 2015	WORKSESSION SPRING PARK AND/OR BEACHES WALK THROUGH FINAL REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BEACH POLICY
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 18, 2015	INITIAL BUDGET REVIEW – WHAT DOES THE COMMISSION WANT FOR 2016? THANK YOU ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR REVIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
<input type="checkbox"/> JULY 16, 2015	NO MEETING SCHEDULED
<input type="checkbox"/> AUGUST 20, 2015	BUDGET REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS STRATEGIC PLANNING
<input type="checkbox"/> SEPTEMBER 17, 2015	FALL PARK WALK THROUGH AND BEACH WALK; ELECTIONS; SELECT KHP CLEAN UP DAY BUDGET DISCUSSION
<input type="checkbox"/> OCTOBER 15, 2015	KAREN HORNADAY PARK CLEAN-UP REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE THANK YOU ADVERTISEMENT FOR 2 ND HALF OF THE YEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> NOVEMBER 19, 2015	STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW & PLANNING
DECEMBER 2015	NO MEETING SCHEDULED
	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

2015 HOMER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

It is the goal of the Commission to have a member speak regularly to the City Council at council meetings. There is a special place on the council's agenda specifically for this. After Council approves the consent agenda and any scheduled visitors it is then time for staff reports, commission reports and borough reports. That is when you would stand and be recognized by the Mayor to approach and give a brief report on what the Commission is currently addressing, projects, events, etc. **A commissioner is scheduled to speak and has a choice at which council meeting they will attend. It is only required to attend one meeting during the month that you are assigned.** However, if your schedule permits please feel free to attend both meetings. Remember you cannot be heard if you do not speak.

The following Meeting Dates for City Council for 2015 is as follows:

January 12, 26 2015 Commissioner Archibald

February 9, 23 2015 Commissioner Archibald, Commissioner Steffy

March 9, 23 2015 Commissioner Brann, Commissioner Steffy

April 13, 27 2015 Commissioner Lowney, Commissioner Lillibridge

May 11, 26 (Tues)

June 8, 22 2015

July 20 2015 Commissioner Roedl

August 10, 24 2015

September 14, 28 2015

October 12, 26 2015

November 23, 2015

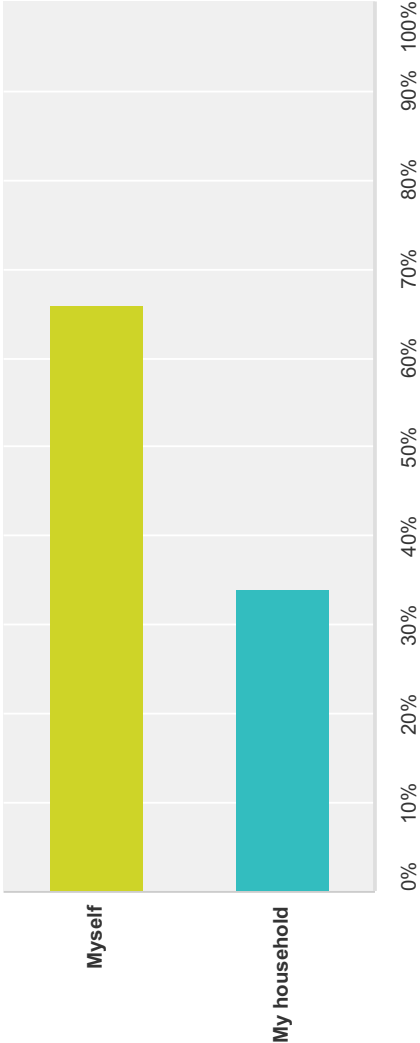
December 14, 2015

Please review and if you will be unable to make the meeting you are tentatively scheduled for please discuss.

PLEASE NOTE: When additional commissioners are appointed the proposed schedule above will reflect those added commissioners.

Q1 I am responding for:

Answered: 976 Skipped: 13

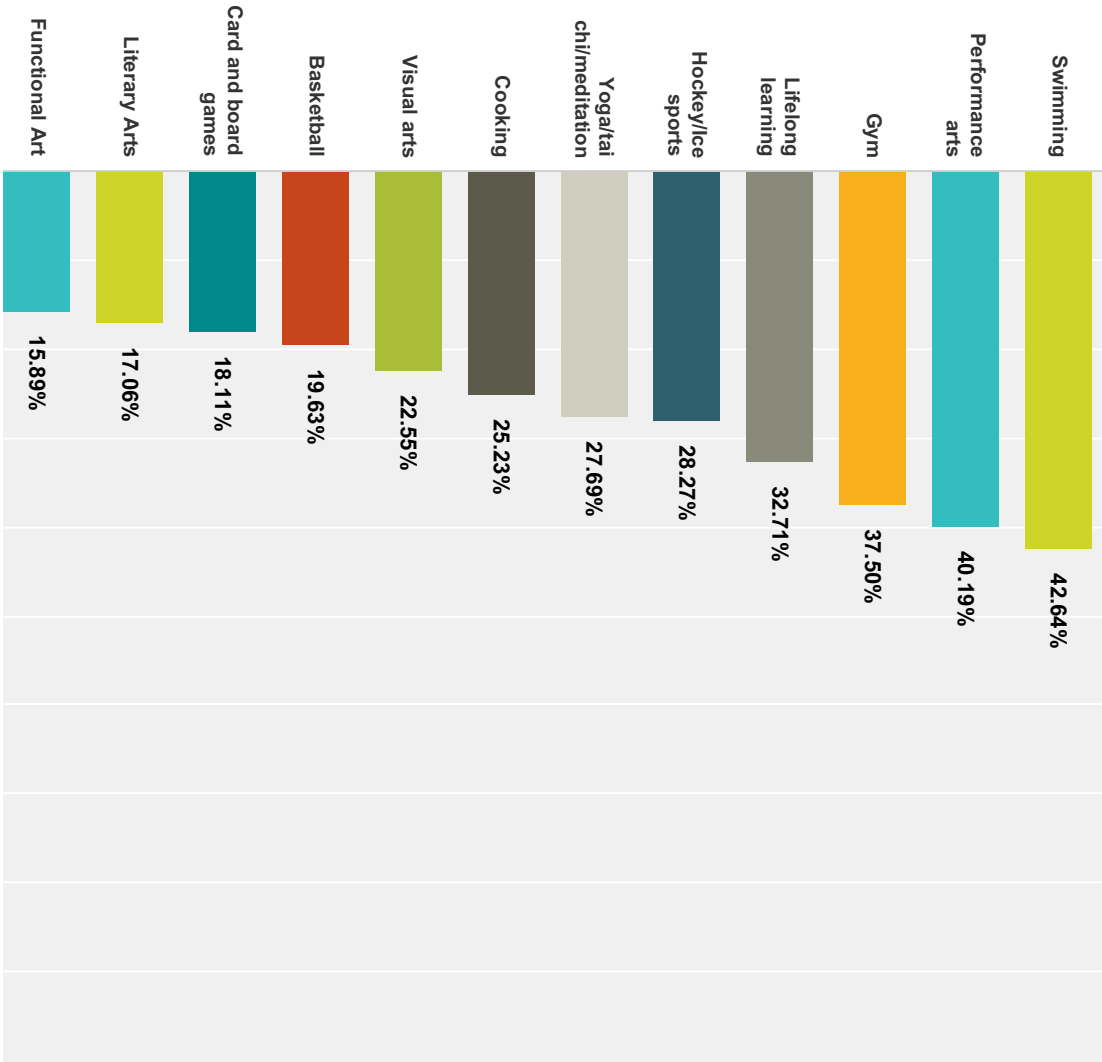


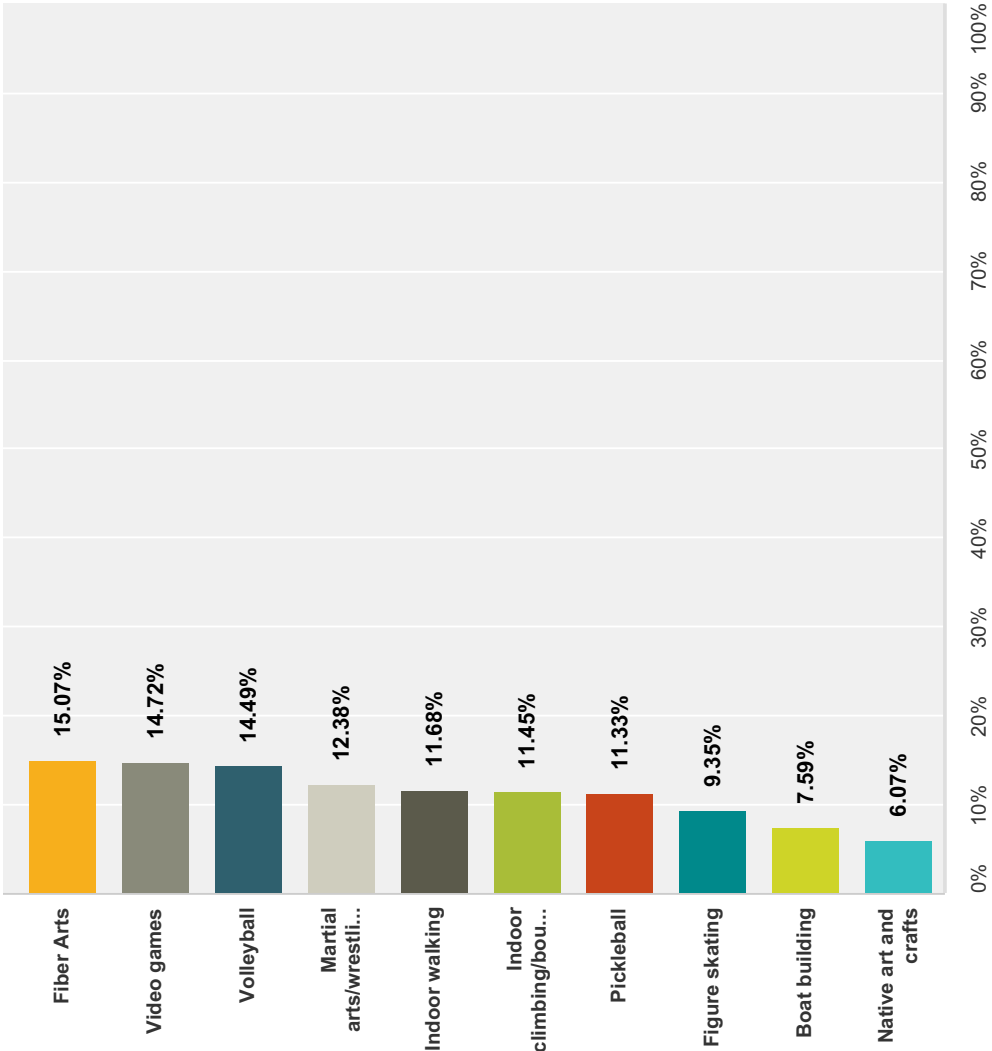
43

Answer Choices	Responses
Myself	65.88% 643
My household	34.12% 333
Total	976

Q2 What INDOOR Parks, Art, Cultural and Recreation activities do you currently participate in in Homer? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 856 Skipped: 133





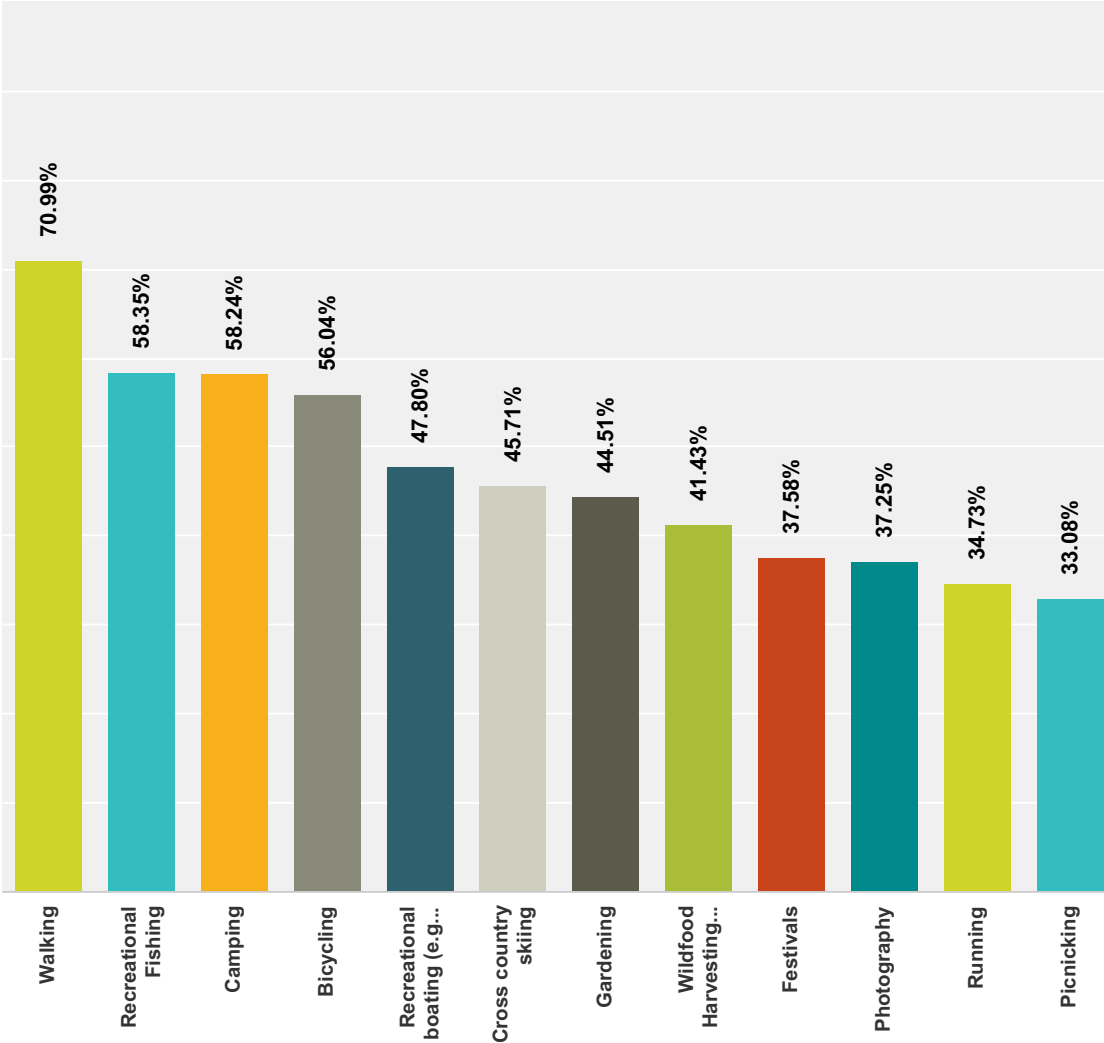
Answer Choices	Responses
Swimming	42.64% 365
Performance arts	40.19% 344
Gym	37.50% 321
Lifelong learning	32.71% 280

Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey

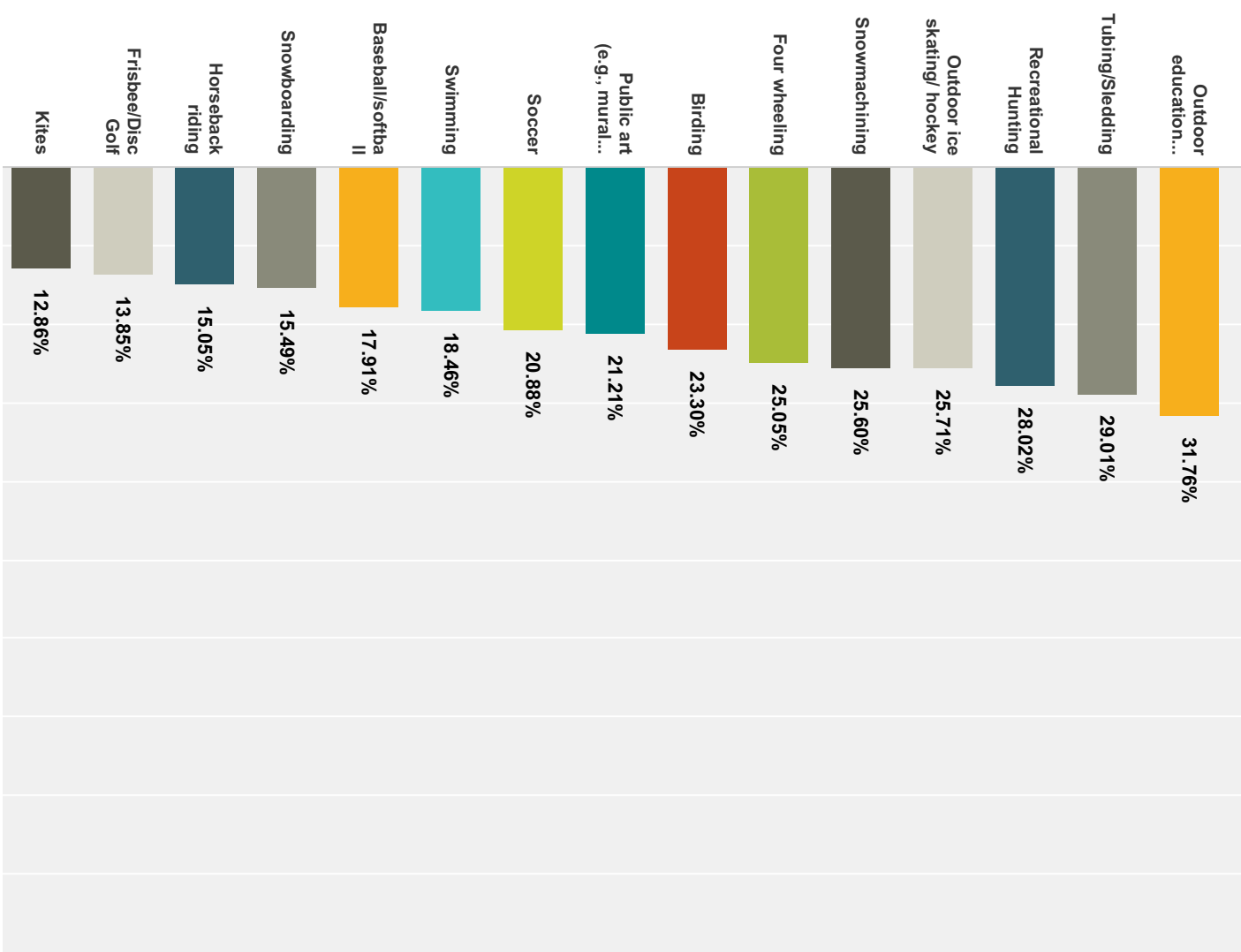
Hockey/Ice sports	28.27%	242
Yoga/tai chi/meditation	27.69%	237
Cooking	25.23%	216
Visual arts	22.55%	193
Basketball	19.63%	168
Card and board games	18.11%	155
Literary Arts	17.06%	146
Functional Art	15.89%	136
Fiber Arts	15.07%	129
Video games	14.72%	126
Volleyball	14.49%	124
Marital arts/wrestling/gymnastics	12.38%	106
Indoor walking	11.68%	100
Indoor climbing/bouldering	11.45%	98
Pickleball	11.33%	97
Figure skating	9.35%	80
Boat building	7.59%	65
Native art and crafts	6.07%	52
Total Respondents: 856		

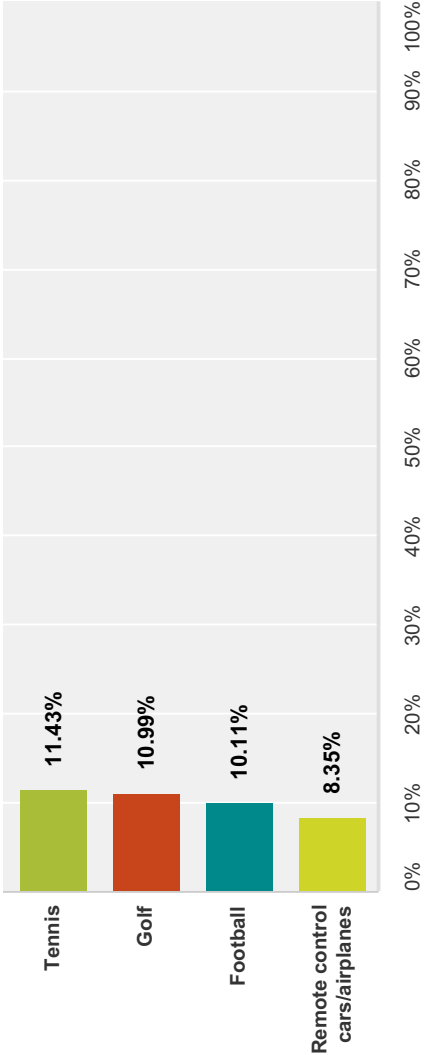
Q3 What OUTDOOR Parks, Art, Cultural and Recreation activities do you currently participate in in Homer? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 910 Skipped: 79



Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey



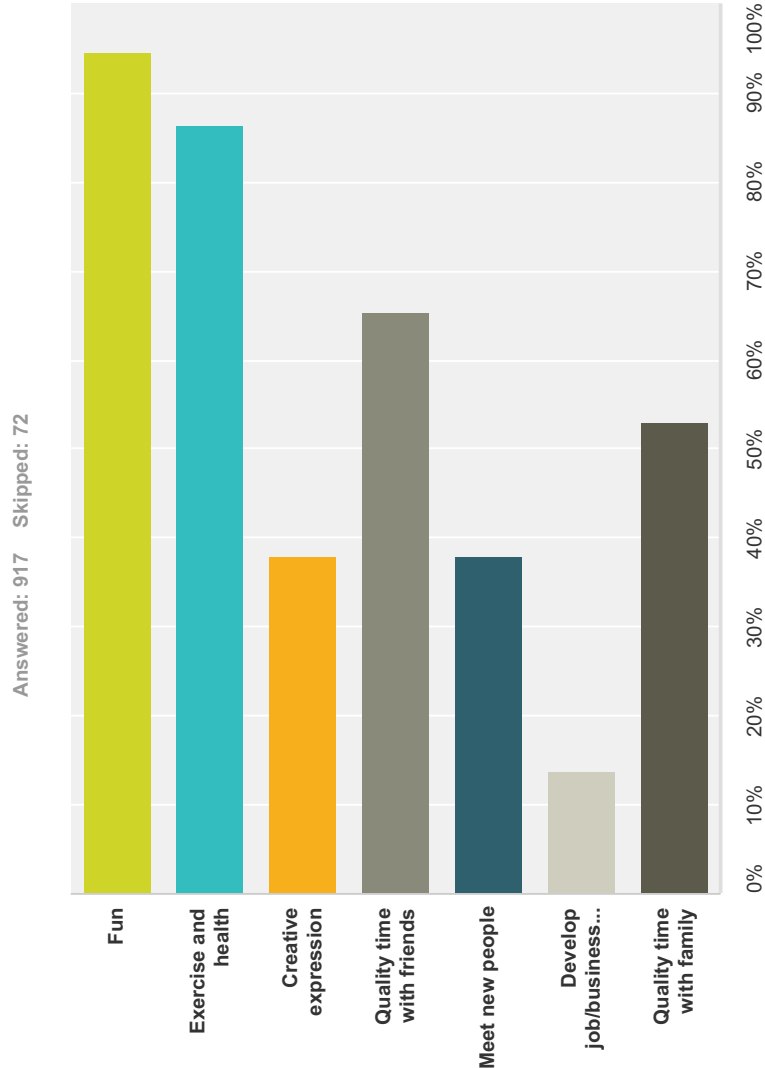


Answer Choices	Responses
Walking	70.99% 646
Recreational Fishing	58.35% 531
Camping	58.24% 530
Bicycling	56.04% 510
Recreational boating (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, sailing, motorboats)	47.80% 435
Cross country skiing	45.71% 416
Gardening	44.51% 405
Wildfood Harvesting (e.g., mushrooms, berries)	41.43% 377
Festivals	37.58% 342
Photography	37.25% 339
Running	34.73% 316
Picnicking	33.08% 301
Outdoor education (e.g., natural science)	31.76% 289

Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey

Tubing/Sledding	29.01%	264
Recreational Hunting	28.02%	255
Outdoor ice skating/ hockey	25.71%	234
Snowmachining	25.60%	233
Four wheeling	25.05%	228
Birding	23.30%	212
Public art (e.g., murals, sculpture and conceptual art)	21.21%	193
Soccer	20.88%	190
Swimming	18.46%	168
Baseball/softball	17.91%	163
Snowboarding	15.49%	141
Horseback riding	15.05%	137
Frisbee/Disc Golf	13.85%	126
Kites	12.86%	117
Tennis	11.43%	104
Golf	10.99%	100
Football	10.11%	92
Remote control cars/airplanes	8.35%	76
Total Respondents: 910		

Q4 What is your motivation for participating in these PARC activities? (check all that apply)

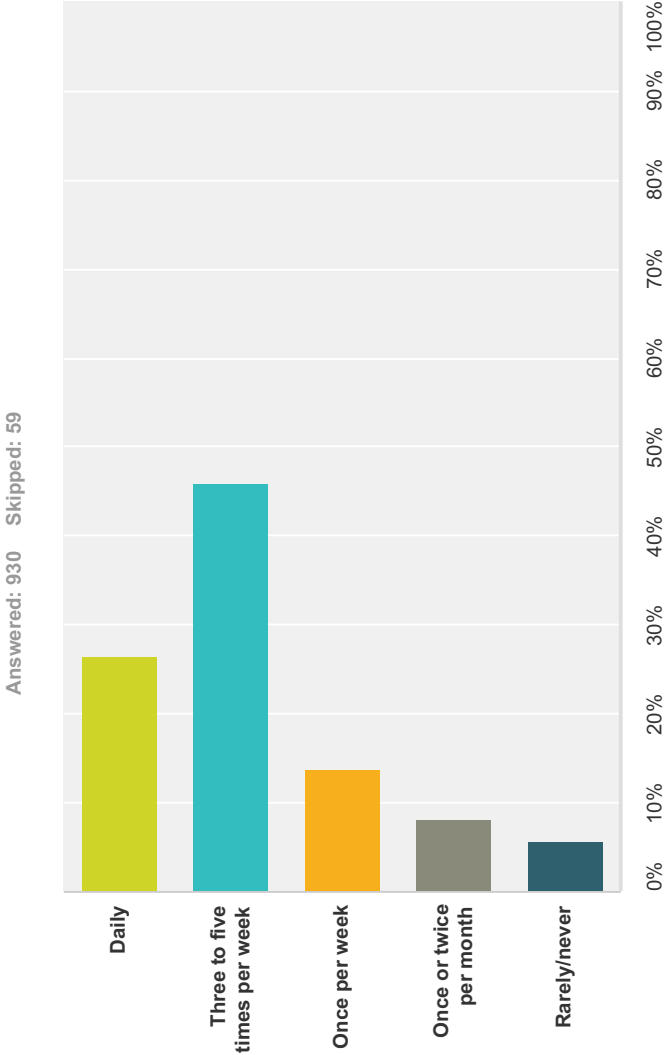


Answer Choices	Responses
Fun	867 94.55%
Exercise and health	793 86.48%
Creative expression	349 38.06%
Quality time with friends	600 65.43%
Meet new people	349 38.06%

Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey

Develop job/business skills	13.85%	127
Quality time with family	53.00%	486
Total Respondents: 917		

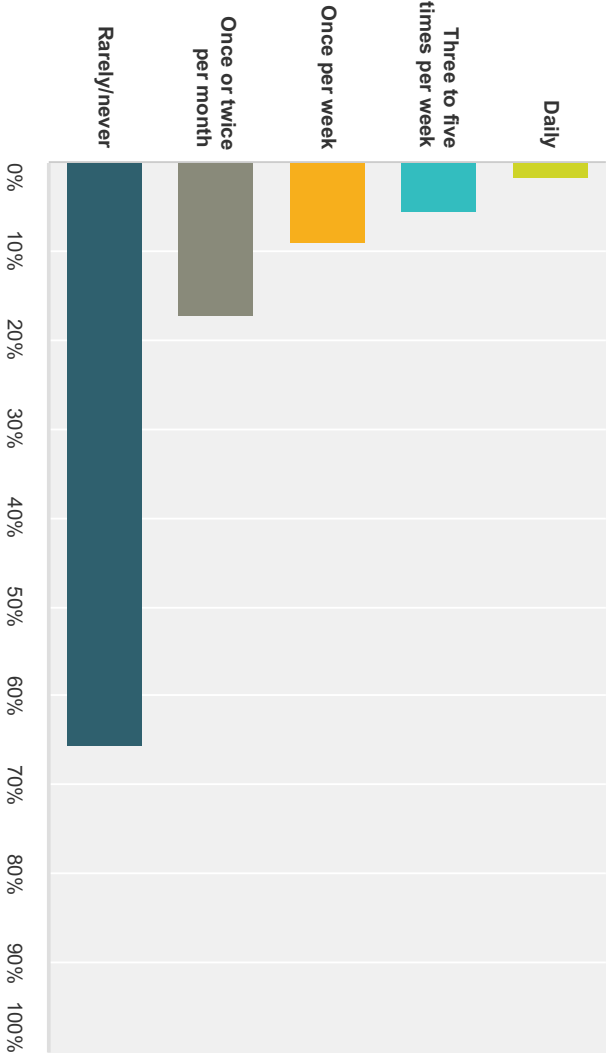
Q5 On average, how often do you participate in these activities as a participant?



Answer Choices	Responses
Daily	246
Three to five times per week	427
Once per week	129
Once or twice per month	76
Rarely/never	52
Total	930

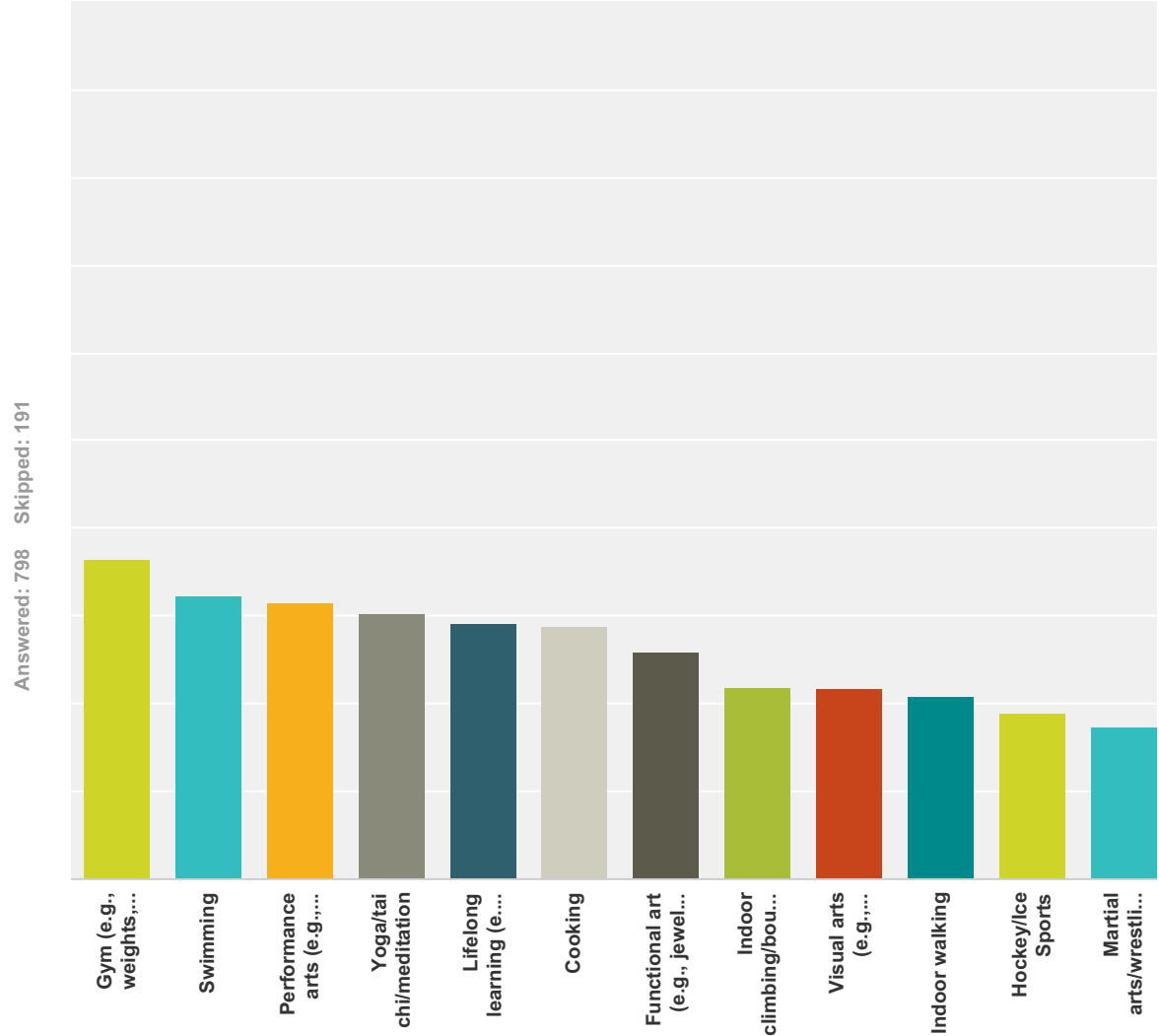
Q6 On average, how often do you volunteer at PARC programs or facilities?

Answered: 924 Skipped: 65

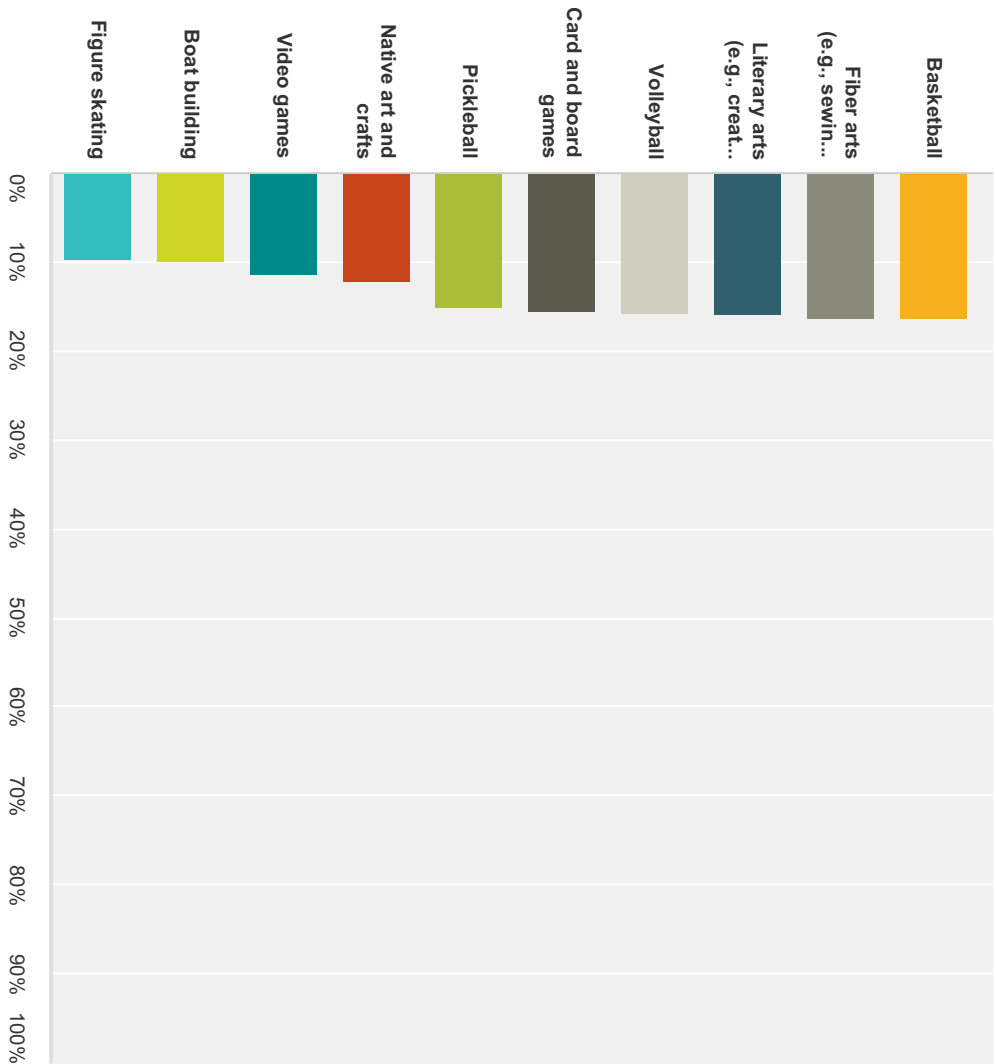


Answer Choices	Responses
Daily	1.95%18
Three to five times per week	5.63%52
Once per week	9.20%85
Once or twice per month	17.42%161
Rarely/never	65.80%608
Total	924

Q7 What desired INDOOR Parks, Art, Cultural and Recreation activities would you like to do more of, or in addition to what you currently do? (Check all that apply)



Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey



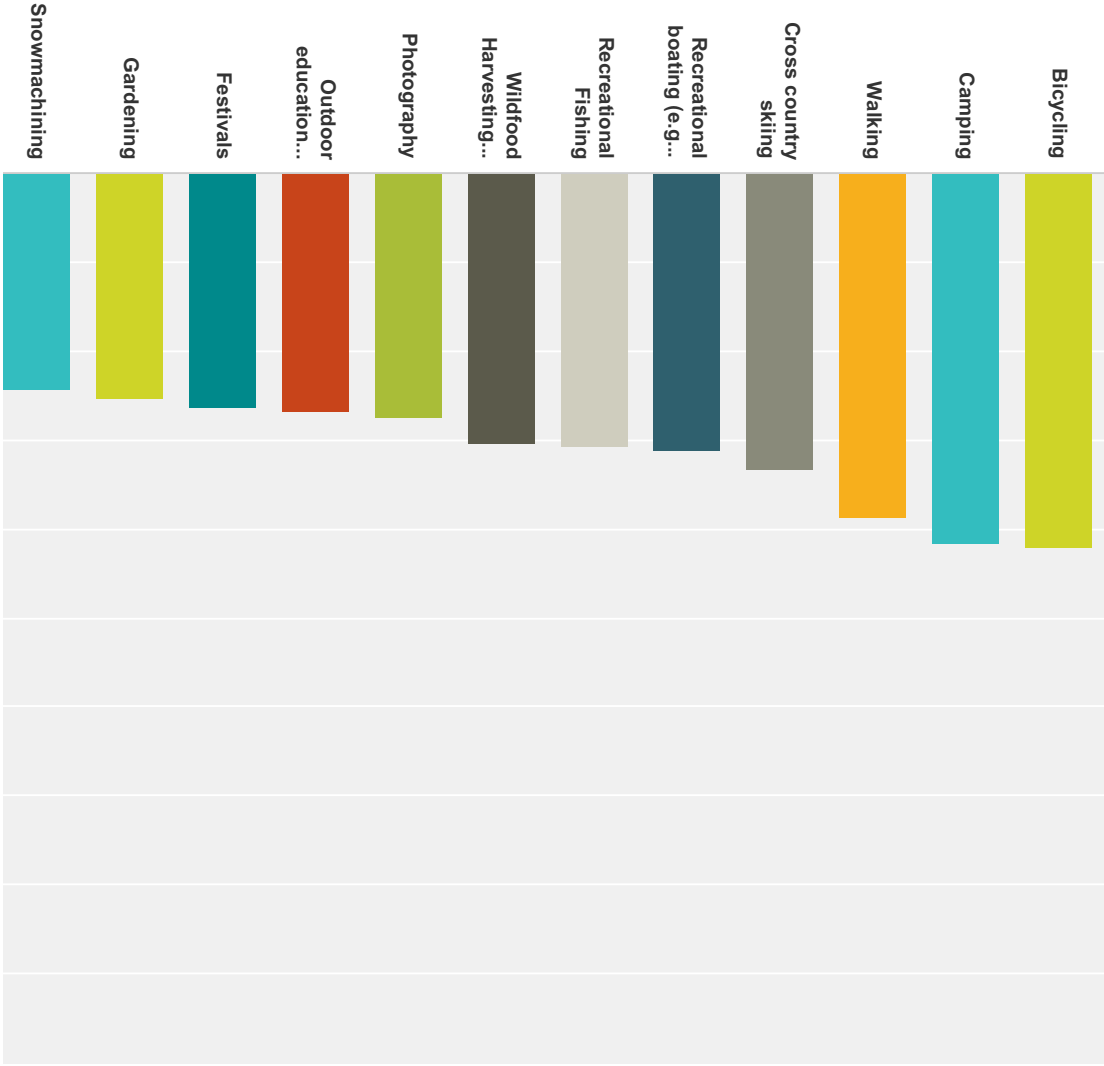
Answer Choices	Responses	
Gym (e.g., weights, treadmill)	36.59%	292
Swimming	32.46%	259
Performance arts (e.g., music, dance, theater)	31.45%	251
Yoga/taï chi/meditation	30.33%	242

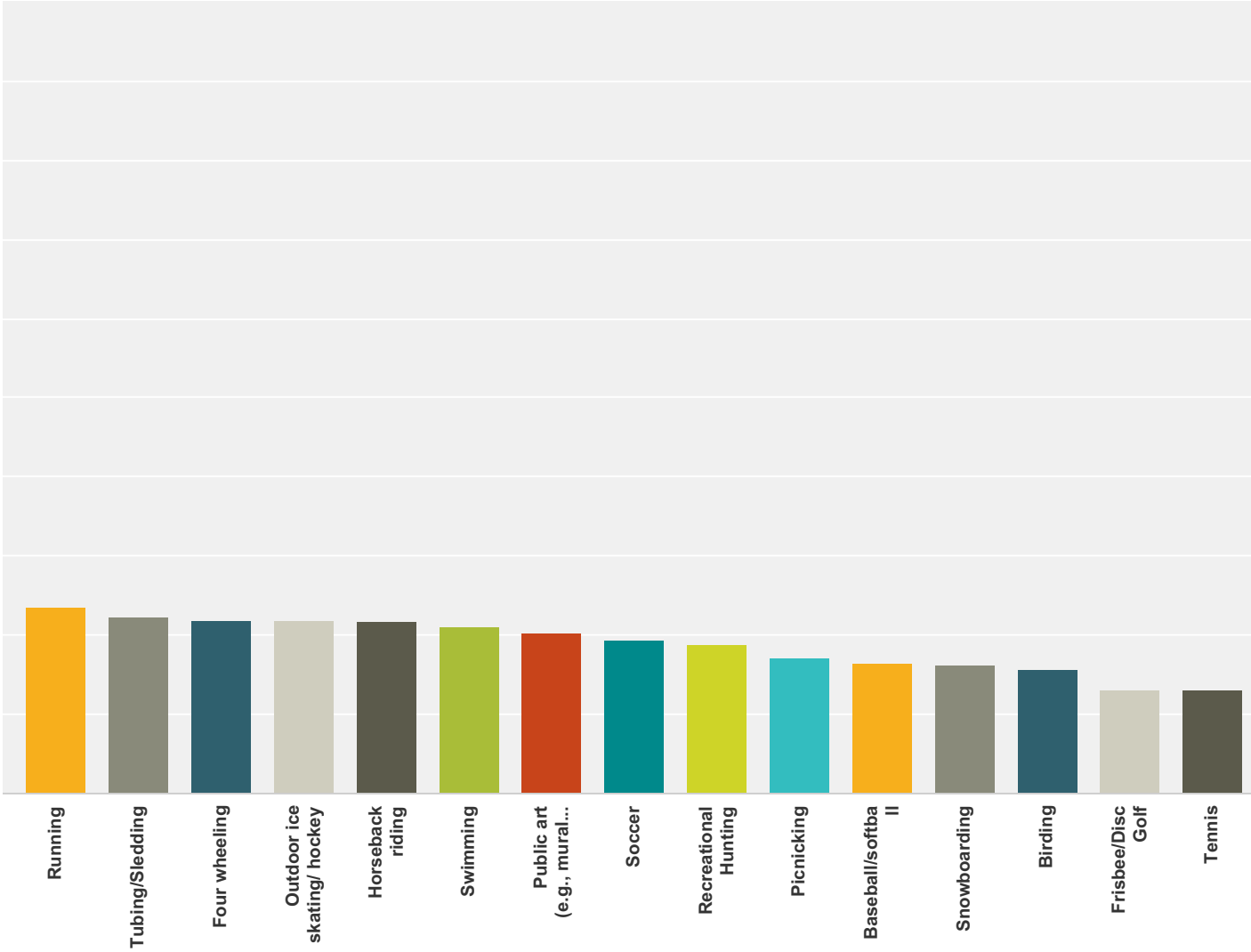
Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey

Lifelong learning (e.g. college, folk school, workshops)	29.20%	233
Cooking	28.82%	230
Functional art (e.g., jewelry, pottery, stained glass)	25.81%	206
Indoor climbing/bouldering	21.93%	175
Visual arts (e.g., drawing, painting)	21.68%	173
Indoor walking	20.93%	167
Hockey/Ice Sports	19.05%	152
Martial arts/wrestling/gymnastics	17.42%	139
Basketball	16.54%	132
Fiber arts (e.g., sewing, knitting, quilting)	16.42%	131
Literary arts (e.g., creative writing, poetry)	16.04%	128
Volleyball	15.91%	127
Card and board games	15.66%	125
Pickleball	15.29%	122
Native art and crafts	12.28%	98
Video games	11.53%	92
Boat building	10.03%	80
Figure skating	9.77%	78
Total Respondents: 798		

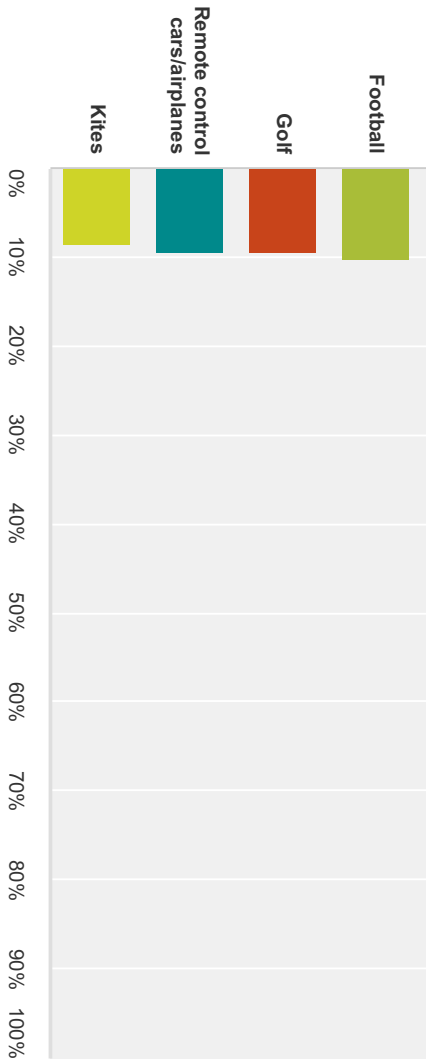
Q8 What desired OUTDOOR Parks, Art, Cultural and Recreation activities would you like to do more of, or in addition to what you currently do ? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 779 Skipped: 210





Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey



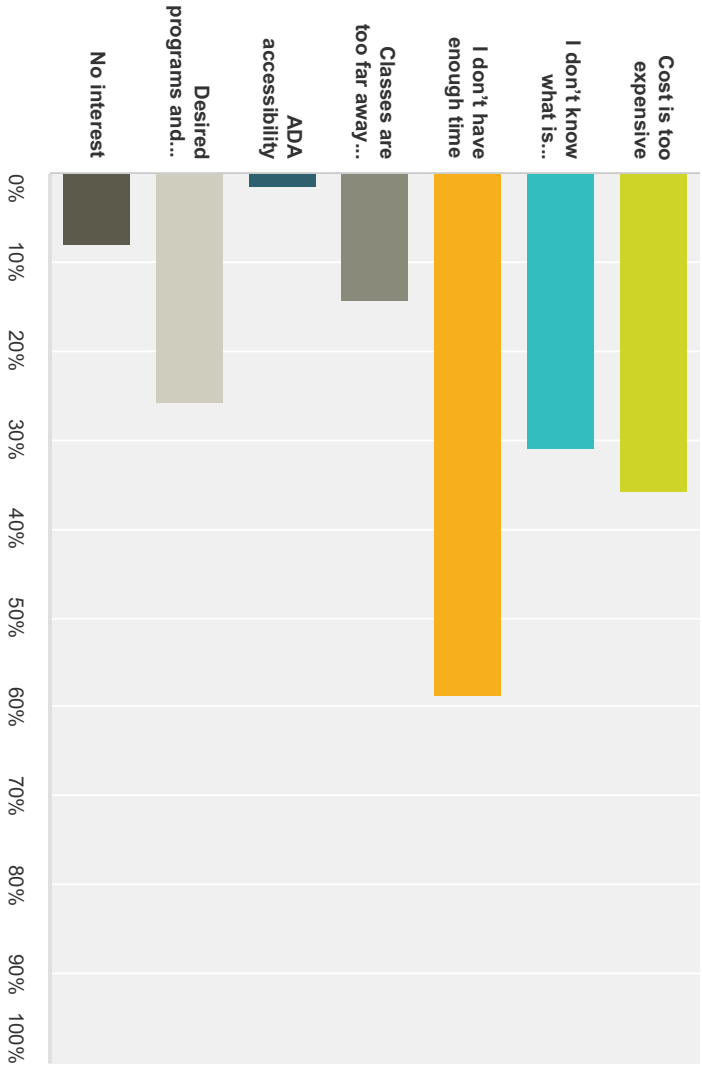
Answer Choices	Responses	
Bicycling	42.11%	328
Camping	41.72%	325
Walking	38.77%	302
Cross country skiing	33.50%	261
Recreational boating (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, sailing, motorboats)	31.32%	244
Recreational Fishing	30.94%	241
Wildfood Harvesting (e.g., mushrooms, berries)	30.42%	237
Photography	27.60%	215
Outdoor education (e.g., natural science)	26.83%	209
Festivals	26.44%	206
Gardening	25.42%	198
Snowmachining	24.39%	190
Running	23.62%	184

Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey

Tubing/Sledding	22.34%	174
Four wheeling	21.95%	171
Outdoor ice skating/ hockey	21.82%	170
Horseback riding	21.69%	169
Swimming	21.05%	164
Public art (e.g., murals, sculpture and conceptual art)	20.28%	158
Soccer	19.51%	152
Recreational Hunting	18.87%	147
Picnicking	17.20%	134
Baseball/softball	16.43%	128
Snowboarding	16.30%	127
Birding	15.66%	122
Frisbee/Disc Golf	13.22%	103
Tennis	13.22%	103
Football	10.40%	81
Golf	9.50%	74
Remote control cars/airplanes	9.50%	74
Kites	8.86%	69
Total Respondents: 779		

Q9 What prevents you from RECREATING more/more often? (check all that apply)

Answered: 823 Skipped: 166

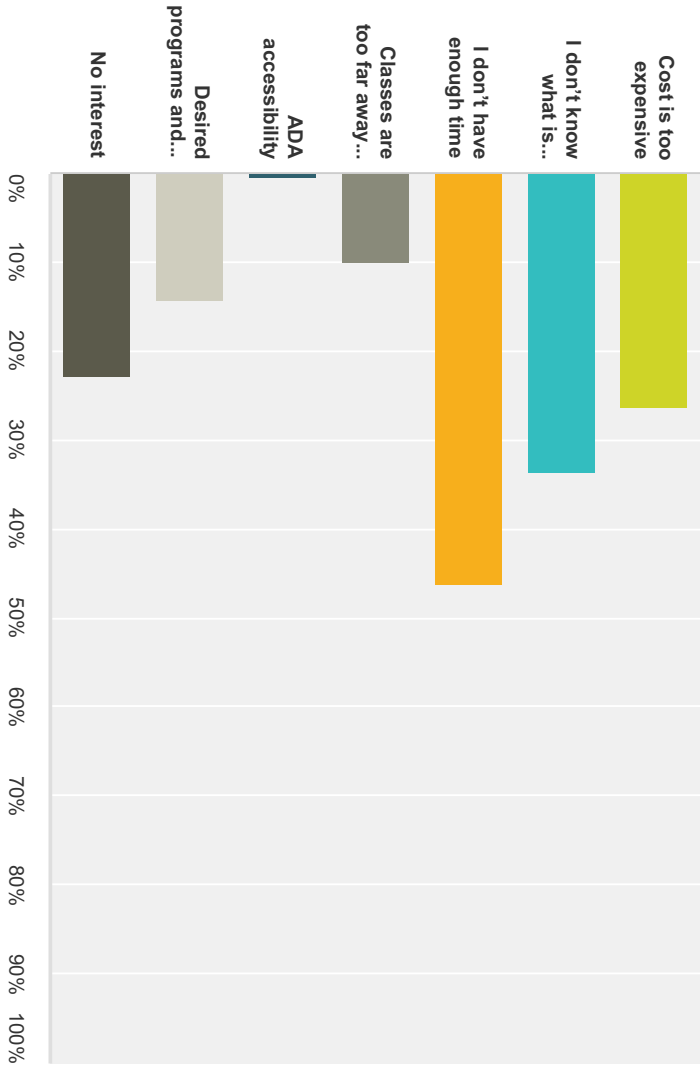


Answer Choices	Responses
Cost is too expensive	35.97% 296
I don't know what is available	31.11% 256
I don't have enough time	58.81% 484
Classes are too far away or too hard to get to	14.34% 118
ADA accessibility	1.70% 14
Desired programs and facilities do not currently exist in the greater Homer area (please specify)	25.88% 213

No interest		8.14%	67
Total Respondents: 823			

Q10 What prevents you from participating in ARTS ACTIVITIES more/more often? (check all that apply)

Answered: 788 Skipped: 201



Answer Choices	Responses	
Cost is too expensive	26.52%	209
I don't know what is available	33.88%	267
I don't have enough time	46.32%	365
Classes are too far away or too hard to get to	10.28%	81
ADA accessibility	0.63%	5

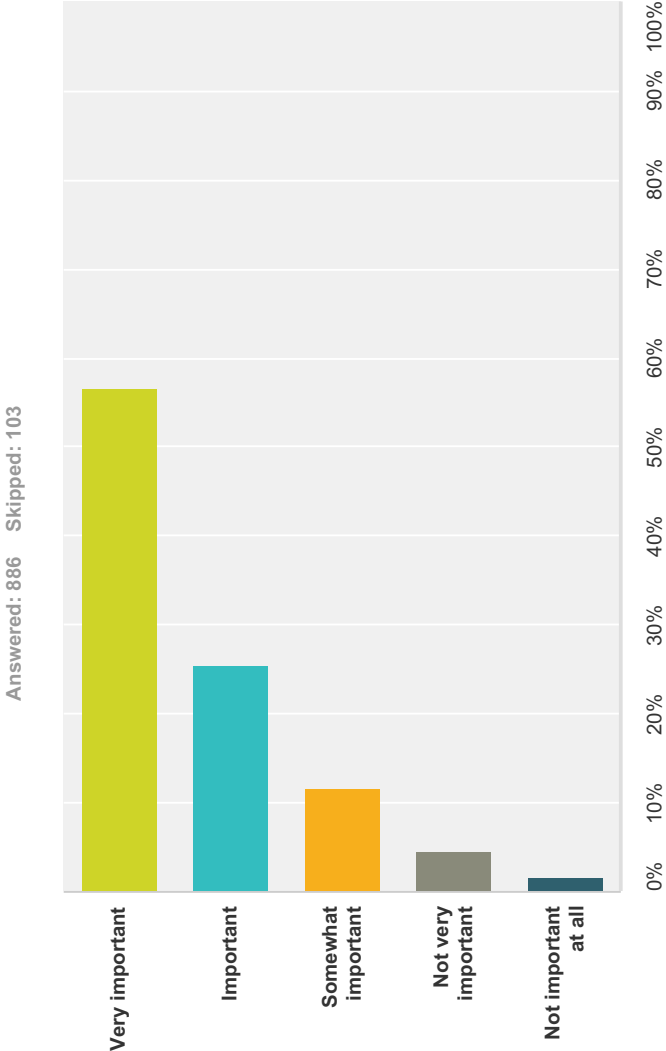
Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey

Desired programs and facilities do not currently exist in the greater Homer area (please specify)		14.34%	113
No interest		22.97%	181
Total Respondents: 788			

Q11 Consider your answers in questions 9 and 10. If you could overcome one problem, what would it be? How would you solve it?

Answered: 607 Skipped: 382

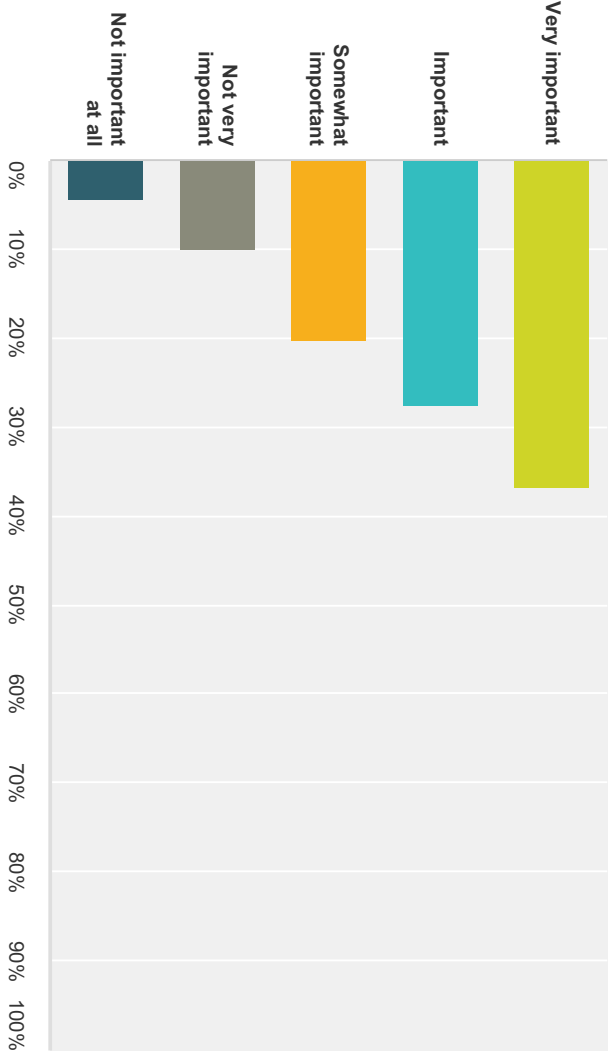
Q12 How important are the availability of recreation activities to you and your immediate family/friends?



Answer Choices	Responses
Very important	56.66% 502
Important	25.40% 225
Somewhat important	11.74% 104
Not very important	4.51% 40
Not important at all	1.69% 15
Total	886

Q13 How important are the availability of arts activities to you and your immediate family/friends?

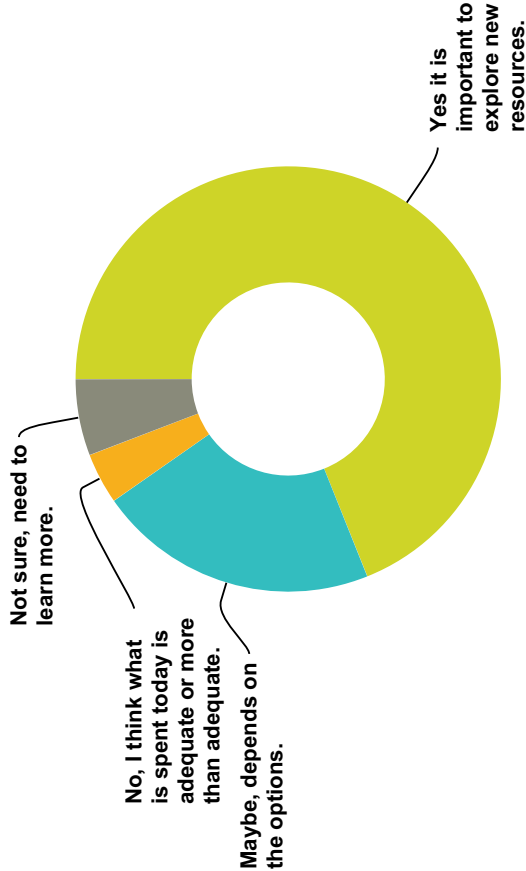
Answered: 884 Skipped: 105



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very important	36.88%	326
Important	27.71%	245
Somewhat important	20.48%	181
Not very important	10.29%	91
Not important at all	4.64%	41
Total		884

Q14 Maintaining and/or improving PARC opportunities requires funding and other forms of support. Do you support exploring new strategies to maintain and/or expand PARC opportunities in the greater Homer area?

Answered: 876 Skipped: 113



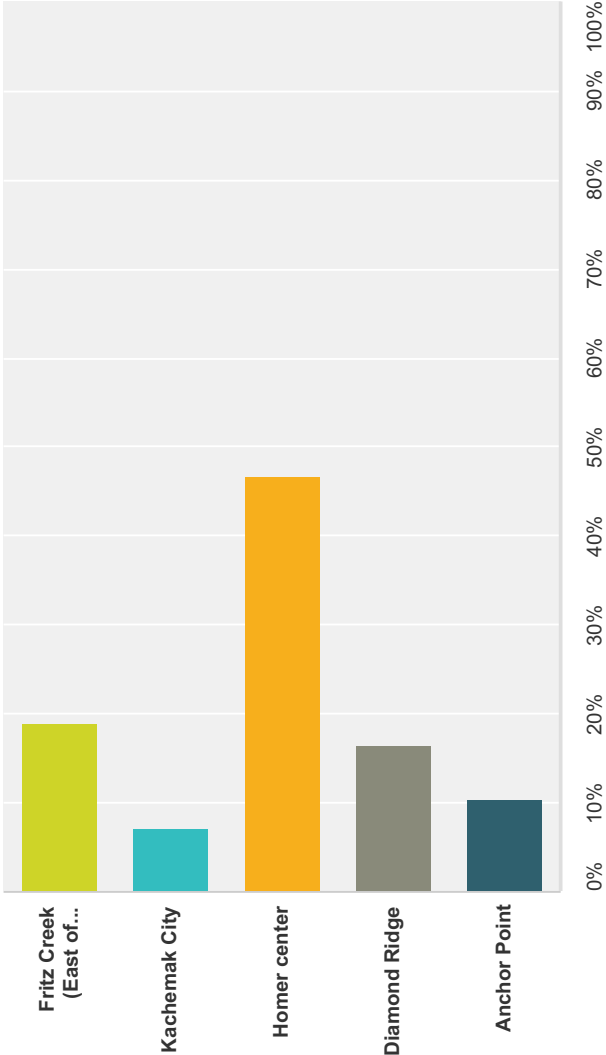
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes it is important to explore new resources.	69% 604
Maybe, depends on the options.	21% 187
No, I think what is spent today is adequate or more than adequate.	4% 34
Not sure, need to learn more.	6% 51
Total	876

**Q15 Any other comments about the PARC
Needs Assessment?**

Answered: 266 Skipped: 723

Q16 Where do you live?

Answered: 792 Skipped: 197



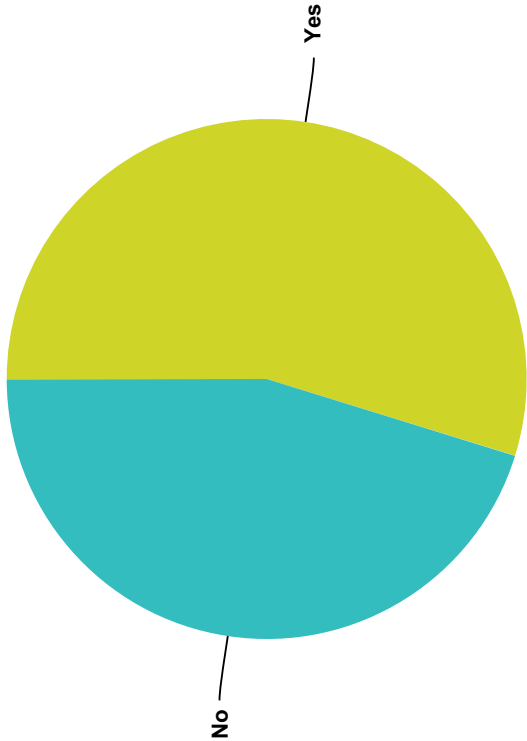
Answer Choices	Responses
Fritz Creek (East of Kachemak City)	151 19.07%
Kachemak City	57 7.20%
Homer center	371 46.84%
Diamond Ridge	130 16.41%
Anchor Point	83 10.48%
Total	792

Q17 How many people currently live in your household?

Answered: 851 Skipped: 138

Q18 Do you have anyone under 18 currently living in your home?

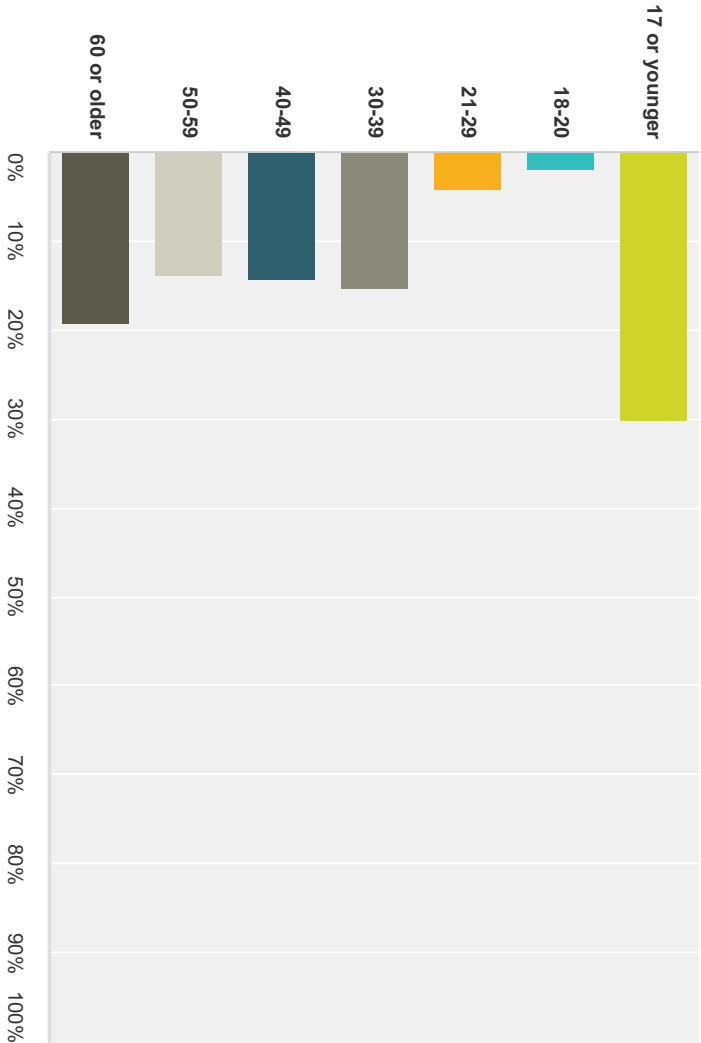
Answered: 869 Skipped: 120



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	54.78%	476
No	45.22%	393
Total		869

Q19 What is your age?

Answered: 873 Skipped: 116



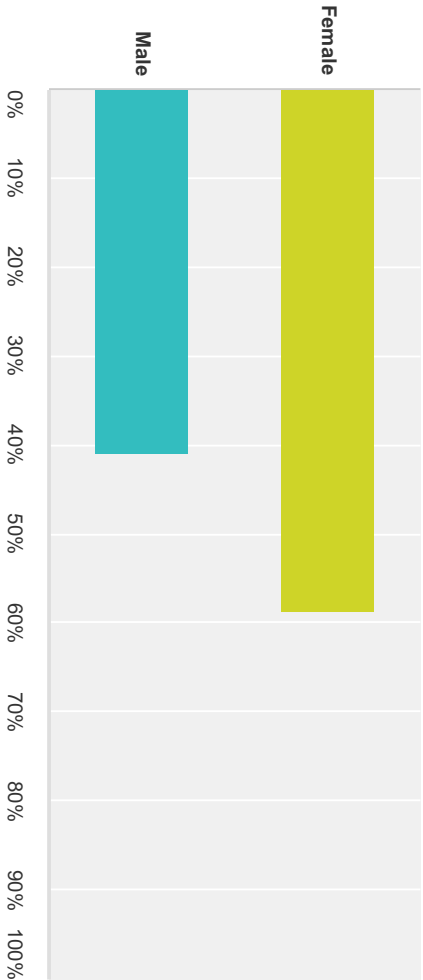
Answer Choices	Responses
17 or younger	30.24% <div>264</div>
18-20	2.06% <div>18</div>
21-29	4.47% <div>39</div>
30-39	15.35% <div>134</div>
40-49	14.32% <div>125</div>
50-59	14.09% <div>123</div>

Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Community Survey

60 or older	19.47%	170
Total		873

Q20 What is your gender?

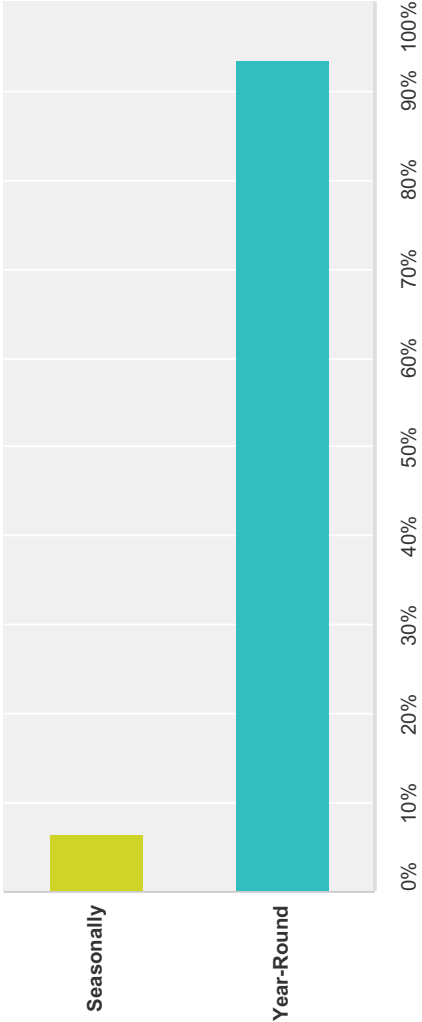
Answered: 869 Skipped: 120



Answer Choices	Responses	76
Female	58.92%	512
Male	41.08%	357
Total		869

Q21 Do you live in the Homer area:

Answered: 850 Skipped: 139



77 Answer Choices		Responses
Seasonally		6.47%55
Year-Round		93.53%795
Total		850



23rd Annual SAFE KID's Fair

2015 VENDOR APPLICATION

The SAFE KID's Fair will be held on Saturday, April 25th, 2015, from 10a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held in the Homer High School Commons. Please fill out this vendor application completely and return it to Haven House, fax to: 907-235-2733 or e-mail to: jacquielou_2@hotmail.com no later than Monday, April 6, 2015.

Organization/Company: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Topic/Activity (Include description of topic and how you wish to present it) _____

Of tables needed _____

Do you need electricity? _____

Other Special Accommodations needed? _____

South Peninsula Haven House
3776 Lake Street
Homer, AK 99603 Phone: 907-235-7712

Would you like to host a half hour activity in the gym? If so, what activity?

What time do you prefer? _____

Each year volunteers are needed to run the fair. We are asking each vendor to volunteer time other than working their booth to help run the fair. How will you or someone from your agency be volunteering this year? Please check all that apply:

- ☐ **Wearing costumes** ☐ **Take down, clean up**
☐ **Set-up**

If you have a prize you want to donate for the door prizes please let me know as soon as possible, and what age group it is best for. All vendors donating door prizes will be recognized. Please consider that this is a children's fair (0-14 years of age) when donating prizes.

Tables will be set up the evening before the fair. Time will be announced at a later date... You will be assigned a table according to your needs, and a map will be posted documenting the location.

The Homer High School will be open by 8:00 am on Saturday, April 25^h, the day of the fair. You are welcome to set up your exhibit any time after this. However, booths must be ready to go by fair starting time 10:00 am and remain up until 2:00pm.

Please contact us if you need to cancel after your application has been submitted. Please contact Jacquie Thaute at 235-2953/299-2924, jacquielou_2@hotmail.com with any further questions or concerns.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

**SEE YOU SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH for
Our 23rd Annual SAFE Kids Fair**

South Peninsula Haven House
3776 Lake Street
Homer, AK 99603 Phone: 907-235-7712

